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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Are you satisfied with Gov. Benigno Fitial's explanation relating to the temporary release of a federal detainee?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Plane Scare

A Jewish teenager trying to pray on a New York-to-Kentucky flight causes a scare.

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Immigration Woes

Fida Khan, 14, tries to convince a Japanese court that authorities should not deport him.

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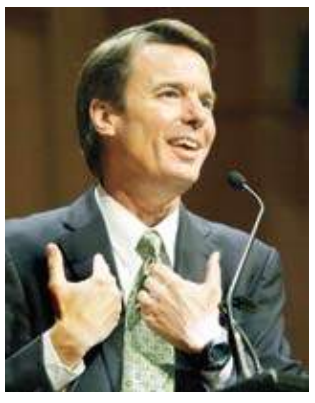

Confession

Former senator John Edwards confesses he fathered the baby born to his ex-mistress.

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Judge: Rebuenog is qualified

As a Northern Islands mayoral candidate

Rebuenog

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A CNMI Superior Court judge declared yesterday that Ramona Taisakan Rebuenog is a qualified mayoral candidate for the Northern Islands.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman said that Rebuenog satisfies the residency and domiciliary requirements under the law that lists the conditions an individual must meet in order to run for mayor of the Northern Islands.

Wiseman determined that Rebuenog came to Saipan for medical reasons, remained on Saipan because of her children's education, and has consistently voted in the Northern Islands since 1989.

"[Rebuenog] has expressed her intent to give her homestead

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Students share a moment of laughter during the Northern Marianas College's General Assembly that took place Friday.

NMC

FAA threatens recall of funds

Unless CPA gets moving on runway rehab project

RELATED NEWS

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By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Federal Aviation Administration may recall the funding for the runway rehabilitation project at the Saipan International Airport if the Commonwealth Ports Authority fails to get the project moving.

Executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero told CPA board members in a regular meeting yesterday that the FAA team that recently visited the islands had raised concerns about the continued "standby" status of the airport project.

Deleon Guerrero said the FAA made it clear that if the temporary runway

See FAA on Page 4

Glenna: I have a contract that obligates me to work

Froilan, Manglona still differ on LB director issue

Legislative Bureau director Glenna SP. Reyes talks to reporters inside her office at the legislative building on Capital Hill.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Legislative Bureau director Glenna SP. Reyes said yesterday that her existing contract obligates her to continue working despite House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio's letter on Wednesday asking her to vacate her office as soon as possible.

Reyes was referring to an employment contract signed in November 2009 and expiring on Sept. 30, 2010. Tenorio, on the other hand, had cited a previous contract where Reyes' appointment was to end on Jan. 11, 2010, when the 17th Legislature took office.

Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) and Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) still differ on their stands involving Reyes' appointment and contract as of yesterday afternoon.

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Another in human smuggling case pleads guilty. PAGE 2
DPW Secretary Diego Songsong resigns. PAGE 3

Local

Young and old raise $430 for Haiti earthquake victims

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Maria Loidalyn Locsin, 9, knew too well the reason why she's holding a used one-gallon water container for the dollar bills and coins donated by passing motorists at the Microl-Beach Road intersection yesterday afternoon.

"I'm doing this to help the victims of the earthquake in Haiti," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

A few feet away stood Jun Concillado, president of Pilcowa and a member of the United Workers Movement-NMI, also holding a plastic container for donated money, as well as a placard that reads, "Please help Haiti earthquake victims."

The two workers groups are doing the donation drive to help the victims of the Jan. 12 Haiti earthquake that has claimed the lives of some 72,000, and displaced millions more.

"We are relying on the generosity and kindness of people to help those in Haiti," he said.

Rabby Syed, president of the United Workers Movement-NMI, said their 4pm to 6pm donation drive raised over $430.

The two groups will conduct another donation drive next Friday, from 4pm to 6pm, also at the intersection of Microl Corp. and Beach Road in San Jose.

"We urge the community to extend their helping hands. The people in Haiti need medication, food and shelter," he said.

The United Workers Movement-NMI and Pilcowa will turn over all their collected donations to the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, which in turn provides this to the Haiti quake relief efforts.

Farzana Syed, 9, was also among the youngest to join the donation drive. A few feet away from her was her mother, Vicky, also receiving donations and holding a placards.

Across them was another group of youths collecting donations from passing motorists, for a medical referral. They chose, however, not to name the patient who will be the recipient of the donations.

Concillado said this is not the first time they held a donation drive at the Microl Corp.-Beach Road intersection. In 2009, they were able to raise $842 in one-and-half-hours for the victims of Typhoon Ondoy in the Philippines, as well as $406 for the repatriation of former nonresident worker Evaristo Flores.

"We're always thankful for the help of people," he added.

Besides the workers' groups and Red Cross, Docomo Pacific is also raising funds for the victims of the Haiti quake. Docomo Pacific has announced that its customers will be able to donate funds by texting to 42484 (HAITI) on their Docomo Pacific phones from Jan. 19 to Feb. 15.

By texting to 42484 on their cell phones, donors will be giving $5 per text to the relief fund. This charge will be deducted from the subscribers' load value for prepaid customers. For post-paid customers, the charge will appear on their bills. Customers may text as many times as they like.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A motorist gives $1 to the Haiti quake donation drive initiated by the United Workers Movement-NMI and Pilcowa, represented by Jun Concillado, right, at the intersection of Microl Corp.-Beach Road in San Jose yesterday afternoon.

Another in human smuggling case pleads guilty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Another defendant in the human smuggling case entered a guilty plea yesterday and was sentenced to one year probation.

Yi Wu, a male Chinese national, agreed to plead guilty to one count of attempted improper entry by an alien.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David A. Wiseman accepted Wu's plea and required him to immediately pay a $10 court assessment fee.

He ordered that Wu be turned over to a federal immigration official immediately for deportation.

If immediate deportation fails and Wu is released pending further immigration proceedings, he must immediately report to the U.S. Probation Office to begin his probation.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kirk Schuler recommended the one-year probation sentence. Attorney Thomas Clifford, counsel for Wu, agreed with the recommendation.

According to the factual basis of the plea agreement, on Jan. 5, 2010, Wu boarded a boat on Saipan to carry out a plan to unlawfully enter Guam. He paid money to be smuggled from Saipan to Guam.

On Thursday, three other Chinese nationals in the same human smuggling scheme also pleaded guilty and received the same one-year probation sentences.

The four were part of a group of 24 Chinese nationals who allegedly tried to enter Guam via boat on Jan. 5, 2010. The U.S. government filed separate cases against the 24.

FREE

H1N1 Mass Vaccination Drives will be held on:

January 23rd
- Sabalu Market, Civic Center in Susupe

January 26th
- Tuesday Market, Fishing Basin in Garapan

January 30th
- Cervical Cancer Health Fair, Fishing Basin in Garapan from 8:00am to 1:00pm
- Head Start Health Symposium LaoLao Bay Golf Resort in Kagman from 7:30am to 2:30pm

You can also visit any health clinic on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to get vaccinated.

The more people vaccinated, the less likely the flu will spread in the coming months.

The H1N1 vaccine is safe, effective, and your best protection against the flu this year.

Be safe, get vaccinated!

For more information, visit the Department of Public Health's H1N1 website at H1N1dph.gov.mp or email fluwatchcnmi@gmail.com

CPA board OKs hiring of 6, renewal of 2 contracts

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority board approved yesterday the recommendation of the personnel committee to immediately fill six key positions at the agency to ensure the smooth operation of its seaports and airports on three islands.

Personnel committee chair Fermin Sakisat pointed out that the comptroller and deputy comptroller positions as well as ports police assistant chiefs for administration and operations are vital to the delivery of services and overall performance of CPA. Two important posts for Rota will also be announced: radio operator and weather observer.

Frances Mafnas, hired as comptroller late last year, will retire from service on Feb. 13. CPA also needs to fill the deputy comptroller vacancy left by Derek Sasamoto, who was hired in June 2009 but resigned in October the same year. Both positions are among the requirements set under the bond indenture agreements for both airport and seaport.

Saipan Tribune learned that Capt. Jermaine Nekaifes used to occupy two positions at Ports Police: assistant chief for administration and assistant chief for operations. He resigned on Jan. 2. The CPA board decided yesterday to hire a replacement for both assistant positions.

Sakisat also revealed that two important posts in Rota must be filled immediately: radio operator and weather observer.

He disclosed that the flight service department on Rota is in a very critical state with the recent resignation of Marvin Muña. He said the flight service department currently has three staff with only two of them certified. He said CPA is incurring a lot of overtime pay as a result of this manpower shortage.

'Rota airport manager, ARFF chief renewed'

Besides green-lighting the hiring of six key positions, the board also unanimously approved renewing the employment contracts of Rota airport manager Thomas Manglona and Aircraft Rescue and Firefighters chief James Diaz for another year.

Saipan Tribune learned that Manglona's new term is up to Feb. 5, 2011, and he will receive an annual pay of $50,000, subject to budgetary constraints and austerity measures.

Diaz's new contract will expire on Feb. 1, 2011. He was also approved $50,000 annual salary, subject to any austerity measures that may be enforced by the agency.

CPA has an estimated 180 employees working at three airports and seaports on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

SWEARING IN CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Edward Maratita, center in blue, was sworn in on Jan. 14 by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to represent the island of Rota for another term on the Marianas Visitors Authority's board of directors. In attendance at the ceremony at the Office of the Governor were, from left, MVA rep Irene Lee, MVA deputy managing director Judy Torres, Fitial, Maratita, MVA board chair Jerry Tan, MVA board member Yoichi Matsumura, MVA managing director Perry Tenorio and Janet Maratita.

DPW Secretary Diego Songsong steps down

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Diego B. Songsong resigned as secretary of the Department of Public Works effective Jan. 16 to pursue his studies off island, *Saipan Tribune* learned yesterday.

Songsong is the second Cabinet-level appointee to step down in recent months following the resignation of Charles Reyes Jr. as press secretary in November.

Songsong

Songsong, in a phone interview yesterday, said he continues to have a good relationship with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

"The governor knew about my plan to pursue my studies a long time ago," he said.

Fitial on Thursday appointed Martin C. Sablan acting Public Works secretary.

"This delegation will remain in effect until such time that I make the appointments for the Executive Branch," Fitial said in a Jan. 21 memo to Executive Branch department and activity heads.

Songsong said he will continue to pursue studies on surveying and project management, among other things. He said he will go to Guam first, then Hawaii, and the U.S. mainland.

"I enjoyed working at DPW for over 10 years. I enjoyed my one-and-a-half year's tenure as DPW secretary," he said.

In his more than 10-year stint at DPW, Songsong became the right-of-way manager at DPW's Technical Services Division before becoming deputy secretary in 2006. Fitial appointed him DPW secretary in 2008.

As DPW secretary, Songsong made sure that Saipan, Rota and Tinian road projects will move forward, including the Cross Island or Back Road improvement project.

Phase I of the project, located in San Vicente/Papago, calls for the construction of approximately 2 miles or 10,500 feet of paved highway. The project includes excavation and backfilling, constructing sub-base and base courses, laying hot asphalt concrete pavement with dense graded anti-skid pavement, pavement markings, shoulders, drainage facilities, driveway connections, installation of signal system and traffic signage necessary to complete the project.

Songsong said the bid for the Phase II of the seven-mile long Cross Island project will be out soon.

"I made sure of that before leaving DPW," he added.

Phase 2A will be partly funded by a $4.5-million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act or the stimulus funds. Phase 1 has a budget of $9.2 million, 100 percent coming from federal highway grant, he earlier said.

BOE approves new test for teacher aides, instructors

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Board of Education has adopted a new test that would measure the content knowledge of Chamorro and Carolinian language teachers and CNMI history instructors, opening a path that would enable these teachers to be deemed Highly Qualified Teachers.

The board unanimously adopted the new examination so these teachers could be eligible for merit increases based on the HQT compensation plan.

At present, the board's Praxis implementation does not include the content knowledge test on Carolinian Language Heritage, Chamorro Language Heritage, and NMI History. Therefore, there is no way for educators teaching these subjects to be classified as highly qualified.

"The content knowledge tests were developed to provide teachers, teacher aides, and instructors the opportunity to be tested on their knowledge and understanding in the contents they are teaching," stated the board.

Before the development of these tests, teachers were asked to take content areas not specifically related to the content they are teaching. For instance, NMI teachers were asked to take the social studies content tests and CCLHS teachers were asked to take middle school content test such as foreign language pedadogy, or vocational general knowledge.

The passing scores, according to the board, were established after the administration of the NMI History and Chamorro Carolinian Language Heritage Studies reviewed the standards set for other Praxis content examinations.

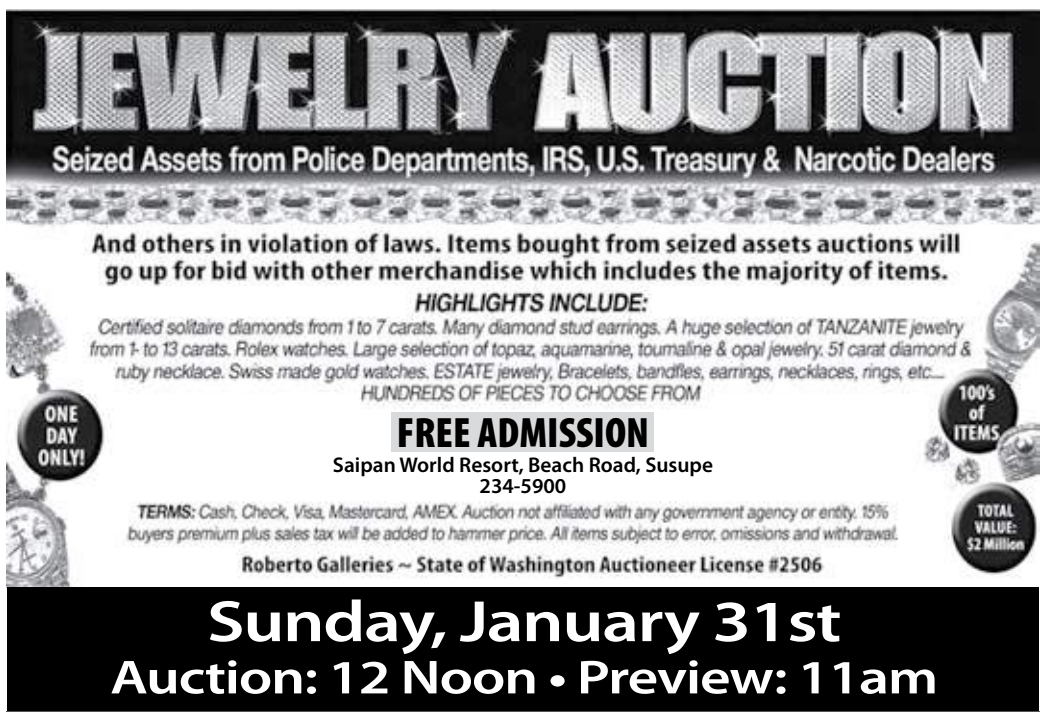
Passing scores, topics covered

According to the board, topics covered under the Chamorro Language & Heritage Content Knowledge Test include phonology, morphology, syntax, and Chamorro cultural perspectives. The board set a composite passing score of 79 percentage. The format includes 110 multiple-choice questions.

For the Carolinian Language & Heritage Content Knowledge Test, topics covered are phonemic awareness, morphology, syntax, and Carolinian culture. The board approved a composite passing score of 72 percentage and the format includes multiple choice and fill-in-the blank questions.

For NMI History, topics covered are the German administration, Japanese administration and World War II, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the path to Commonwealth, and creating the Commonwealth, as well as current events.

A composite score of 75 percentage was set by the board and the format is multiple-choice questions that include critical thinking, analysis, and definitions.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Man allegedly beats up veterinarian over dog's death

A man allegedly beat up a veterinarian outside his clinic in Chalan Lau Lau over the death of a dog.

The Office of the Attorney General has charged Jeremy Togawa Sasamoto with assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

The victim, Dr. Edgar Gordon Tudor, reportedly sustained a cut above the left eye that required several stitches during treatment at the Commonwealth Health Center.

According to court documents, the assault happened outside the Paradise Island Veterinarian Animal Hospital on Oct. 29.

Detective Jackson Jack stated in his report that, as Dr. Tudor was closing up for the day, he heard a loud banging coming from the animal hospital's window glass.

A man approached the front door, prompting Tudor to go outside. The man confronted the victim: "Do you know who I am? You killed my mother's dog!"

The man then grabbed Tudor by the collar and punched him on the face. During the struggle, the doctor fell to the ground.

The suspect fled after seeing some people coming out of neighboring offices.

Detective Jack said that last Dec. 24 a witness and Tudor identified the suspect in a photo lineup as the 36-year-old Sasamoto.

Asia-Pacific air travel fell 5.7 percent in 2009

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Air travel in the Asia-Pacific region declined 5.7 percent in 2009 and recovery is expected to remain fragile, an industry group warned Friday.

Regional airlines are expected to report significant losses for 2009 following losses of $4.3 billion suffered in 2008, the Kuala Lumpur-based Association of Asia Pacific Airlines said in a statement.

The group, which represents roughly one-fifth of global passenger traffic and one-third of global cargo traffic, didn't provide provide an estimate of 2009's losses or a forecast for 2010.

The association's 17 member airlines flew 132.9 million passengers last year, compared to 140.9 million in 2008.

"We have been through downturns before, but none as severe as we've experienced in the past two years," association director-general Andrew Herdman said.

The collapse in corporate travel and intense price competition saw airline revenues falling by 20-25 percent last year, he said.

ERRATUM

Yesterday's news release, titled "Kilili's resolution honors 50th anniversary of Mariana Trench dive," incorrectly stated the date of the Trieste dive as Jan. 23, 1950. The actual dive date was Jan. 23, 1960—fifty years ago.

FAA

From Page 1

rehabilitation fails to move forward as scheduled, the federal agency may consider taking away the funding it provided under the airport improvement project funds.

He disclosed that CPA was mandated to accomplish two important items in the soonest possible time to ensure the continuity of the project.

One, the ports authority has to submit a land survey of the airport runway so that FAA could move forward and approve the project. "The FAA requires that the coordinates for the Saipan runway are in a specific format and CPA is working on getting this required format to the FAA so as not to delay the runway project," Deleon Guerrero told the board.

Second, CPA is required to execute a flight procedure agreement among all airport stakeholders to make sure that everyone understands how they will go about using the temporary runway once it is operational. Deleon Guerrero said a meeting is set on Feb. 2, 2010, with CPA and all airport stakeholders to advise them of the scope of the project and hammer out the flight procedure agreement. He said CPA is now finalizing the agreement.

"The runway rehabilitation is their [FAA] main concern…and they're talking about taking away the funds and we don't want to lose the money for this important project. Once we're done with these two major items, we will meet with the FAA," Deleon Guerrero assured the board.

FAA has provided $4 million funding for the rehabilitation of the temporary airport runway. Although much of the work has been completed, it still needs to be certified by the FAA before use and FAA will only certify the temporary runway once CPA meets the two requirements: the survey and the flight procedure agreement between stakeholders.

The creation of the temporary runway is to give way to the major repair and rehabilitation of the main runway. Bid for the project cost is over $13 million and the notice to proceed was issued in September 2009. Until the temporary runway is certified, work will not commence on the main project.

Deleon Guerrero vowed to submit the necessary documents as soon as possible so they could proceed with the project's scheduled construction in April this year. It is expected to be done within 250 calendar days from the issuance of notice to proceed.

CPA described the runway rehabilitation project as one of its most critical endeavors.

During the rehabilitation of the main airport runway, the temporary runway will be used for majority of aircraft traffic. No flights are expected to be cancelled as the temporary runway will be available for aircrafts needing a longer runway.

FAA needs to certify the use of the temporary runway for aviation safety.

Except for this issue, Deleon Guerrero said, FAA expressed satisfaction with the other projects being funded under the AIP.

FAA regional administrator William Withycombe, in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* during their visit on Jan. 14, said the federal agency is satisfied with CPA's performance in terms of carrying out all airport projects.

CPA received a total of $104.3 million in airport improvement projects funds from the FAA in the last eight fiscal years.

From 1999 to 2007, 49 projects were approved, majority of which were for the Saipan International Airport. The Saipan airport benefited from 26 projects amounting to $59.7 million, 14 for Tinian, and nine projects for the Rota airport.

GLENNA

From Page 1

"With all due respect to the former governor, I reported to work today because I have an existing contract that obligates me to report to work and perform my duties as required under my contract," Reyes said in a statement released some two hours after she was visited by reporters yesterday in her office at the legislative building on Capital Hill.

Reyes said in her meeting with Manglona, the Senate president "acknowledged" that she has "an existing contract and requested that I continue reporting to work."

"All my contracts bear the signatures of the proper officials and were reviewed and certified as legally sufficient by three different legal counsels, respectively," Reyes said.

She added that she recognizes the constitutional authority of both chambers of the Legislature.

"I acknowledge and respect the constitutional joint authority of both the House and the Senate to appoint and remove the director of the Legislative Bureau. I have not, however, received notification from both houses nor has my contract been declared invalid, thus, I will continue to report to work," Reyes added.

Manglona reiterated yesterday that his "hands are tied," given that Reyes has a contract that won't expire until September 2010.

"My position is that since she has a valid contract, then she is still the Legislative Bureau director. We can't do anything about that. My hands are tied," he told *Saipan Tribune* in a phone interview yesterday.

Tenorio, in an interview with reporters at his office yesterday afternoon, reiterated that Reyes' appointment expired on Jan. 11, 2010, when the 17th Legislature took office.

Tenorio, a former governor, cited Article II, Section 17(a) of the CNMI Constitution which states that "the bureau shall be headed by a director to be appointed by the joint leadership of the legislature consisting of the presiding officers, vice presiding officers, floor leaders, and the chairmen of the standing committees."

Reyes' Oct. 22, 2008, appointment letter was signed only by then House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) and then Senate Legislative Secretary Maria "Frica" Pangelinan (D-Saipan).

"Technically, I can challenge the validity of her appointment," Tenorio said.

He however, clarified that "right now," he's not challenging the validity of Reyes' appointment.

"But later on, I might," he added.

Pursuant to the Oct. 22, 2008 appointment letter, Reyes was given an excepted service contract signed between Oct. 28, 2008, and Oct. 31, 2008, by Palacios, Pangelinan, a legal counsel, and the Finance secretary. The contract was effective Oct. 21, 2008, until Sept. 30, 2009.

At the time, Reyes' salary was $65,000 a year.

The same contract also reads: "This contract shall automatically renew on Oct. 1, 2009, without any further action being taken by employer or employee, provided funds are obligated for the position by the passage of a budget or by continuing resolution for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2009, for the period covered by Fiscal Year 2010."

Assuming the contract was valid despite the signature of only two lawmakers, Tenorio said he takes issue with the contract's automatic renewal provision.

He also noted the amendments to the contract including a reduction in annual salary from $65,000 to $58,000, but no such amendments to the appointment of Reyes.

In November, or about a month before the Jan. 11, 2010, expiration of Reyes' contract, Palacios, Pangelinan, a legal counsel, and the Finance secretary gave another contract to Reyes effective Nov. 12, 2009, and expiring on Sept. 30, 2010.

This is the contract that Reyes and Manglona were referring to, but Tenorio said every Legislature has the right to appoint its own Legislative Bureau director as stated in the Constitution.

The Senate president earlier said Reyes may turn around and sue the Legislature or the leaderships if she's forcibly be removed despite an existing contract.

Tenorio wrote a letter to Manglona informing him of his appointment of former Rota Rep. Daniel Quitugua as the new Legislative Bureau director to replace Reyes, but Manglona had said the only reason the Legislative Bureau director's post is vacant is if the one holding the post has resigned or the Supreme Court declares the existing contract non-binding.

Despite the impasse, both Manglona and Tenorio separately said the issue about Reyes should not affect the relationship between the two chambers as they work on the budget and other pressing matters.

Tenorio also said in his memo to Reyes that asking her to vacate her office should not be taken as reflecting negatively on her performance as director. "To the contrary, I thank you for your service to the Legislature and wish you well in your future endeavors," Tenorio told Reyes.

REBUENOG

From Page 1

to her children and return to the Northern Islands. [Rebueno] returned to the Northern Islands on several occasions," the judge noted.

Wiseman issued the decision on Rebuenog's qualification to run for the Northern Islands mayoral race following the CNMI Supreme Court's order issued last Tuesday. The high court's justices ordered Wiseman to declare whether or not Rebuenog is a qualified mayor candidate for the Northern Islands. With the ruling, the Supreme Court is expected to decide on other legal issues on appeal.

In his decision, Wiseman said he had to make a determination whether Rebuenog satisfies the four requirements set in 1CMC Section 6305:

- The candidate must be qualified to vote in the Northern Islands;
- He or she must meet the 25-year age requirement;
- He or she must be a resident and domiciliary of the Northern Islands for at least three years immediately preceding the date on which the mayor takes office; and
- He or she must reside on the island or islands served by the mayor after each election.

Wiseman cited another law that states that "the residence of a person is that place in which the person's habitation is fixed, and to which, whenever the person is absent, the person has the intention to return."

Wiseman said he interpreted this statute to mean that a person must not only have the intent to return to the Northern Islands, but must also have a fixed habitation on the Northern Islands.

During the trial, the judge said, he heard testimony and viewed photographs depicting Rebuenog's home on Anatahan, which is presently covered in ash.

Wiseman said that, according to Rebuenog's testimony, she would rebuild the house, if necessary.

"The court found these items of evidence to be credible, thus satisfying the fixed habitation requirement set forth under the statute," he said.

Wiseman also noted that Rebuenog testified that she considers Anatahan her home and that she intends to return there once the CNMI declares the island safe for habitation.

"Plaintiff has the unbroken and unwavering present intent to return back to the Northern Islands, now that her children are done with school, and also has a fixed habitation on the Northern Islands," the judge added.

Last Dec. 30, Wiseman declared Rebuenog of the Covenant Party as mayor of the Northern Islands.

Wiseman determined that Rebuenog had the largest number of legal votes in the Nov. 7, 2009, election over independent candidate Tobias Dela Cruz Aldan after finding that 18 of 21 questioned voters were not qualified to vote in the Northern Islands mayoral election.

The judge ruled that, as a result of the election contest, Rebuenog defeated Aldan by two votes, 64-62.

During the Nov. 7, 2009 general election itself, Aldan received 68 votes, while Rebuenog, got 67 votes. Rebuenog asked for recount, after which the Commonwealth Election Commission determined the same result and certified that Aldan had won the race.

On Nov. 12, Rebuenog sued CEC and Aldan, asking the court to declare her as the elected mayor of the Northern Islands because she had the largest number of legal votes cast in the election.

At trial, Aldan argued that Rebuenog was not a qualified mayoral candidate. Wiseman ruled that Aldan did not properly raise this issue, and therefore that under NMI election law it did not need to be answered by the court.

Rebuenog appealed.

The Supreme Court ruled that when deciding the election contest, the trial court was required to determine whether Rebuenog was a qualified mayoral candidate.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guam first lady Joann Camacho, together with George Lai, president of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Guam, and its members present a $25,900 check totaling to the Guam Chapter of the American Red Cross to be used to assist the victims of the earthquake in Haiti.

Guam effort raises more than $25K for Haiti relief

GUAM—In an effort to offer relief to those devastated by the Haiti earthquake, Guam first lady Joann Camacho, together with George Lai, president of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Guam, and its members presented a check totaling $25,900 to the Guam Chapter of the American Red Cross to be used to assist the victims of the earthquake in Haiti.

"I am humbled by the outpouring of support from our island community to aid the people of Haiti," said Camacho. "I especially thank the men and women of the Guam Fire Department, Guam Airport Police, Customs & Quarantine Agency and the Dept. of Homeland Security/Civil Defense for their tireless efforts during the Boot Drive. We successfully raised these funds together."

This week the Offices of the Governor and First Lady of Guam and its contributing local government offices collaborated together in a Boot Drive at the intersections of Chief Quipuha Loop in Hagatña, and the ITC intersection in Tamuning and collected $8,888 worth of donations from the public. The remaining contributions were received from the dedicated members of the CCCG. ***(PR)***

High surf seen to subside today

Seas and surf are expected to continue to subside through the weekend but the CNMI Emergency Management Office warns that surf will remain hazardous on north facing reefs through Saturday morning.

A high surf and small craft advisory remains in effect until 11am today.

EMO said that surf along east facing reefs has fallen below hazardous levels but hazardous surf of 8 to 10 feet is still occurring along north facing reefs.

"Surf will fall below hazardous levels on north facing shores Saturday morning," it said. "Seas 10 feet or greater will produce conditions hazardous to small craft. inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid navigating in these conditions. If boating is necessary exercise caution, especially when entering or leaving harbors and near reef lines. Maneuvering smaller vessels can be difficult in gusty winds, especially interisland voyages. Take all necessary precautions. Wear flotation gear. Take along extra food and water."

EMO is strongly advising the public to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along north and east facing reefs as rip currents are life threatening. ***(EMO)***

NMC sets 3-day Grazing Academy workshop on Saipan this February

A three-day workshop by the Northern Marianas College's Marianas Grazing Academy will be held on Feb. 3-5, 2010, at Room D-1 at the college's As Terlaje campus. The Academy is aimed at building local agricultural capacity and educating farmers and ranchers about increasing the economic viability of their products.

The workshops, which require no registration or participation fee, will include training on pasture and livestock management issues, including soil management, forage production, grazing management planning, weed control, forage selection, animal health and treatment practices, fecal analyses for parasitic infection, and meat quality and marketing.

The Academy, a project organized through a collaborative effort between the NMC Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service and experienced pasture, livestock, and soil specialists from the University of Hawaii, University of the Virgin Islands, and the University of Guam, seeks to enhance the production of high quality meat products, which can serve to improve food sustainability through the adoption of appropriate technologies and practices in grazing and livestock management.

The Academy also seeks to provide local farmers, ranchers, technical resource personnel and other interagency collaborators with assistance and guidance in planning and developing special local projects to improve the economic viability of grazing activities in the CNMI.

The third day of the workshop will feature a pasture walk, where participants will be able to evaluate pasture conditions, monitor grazing and forage productions, and estimate stocking rates. Demonstrations and trainings will also be conducted on various concepts, such as herbicide treatment, field fecal examinations, and forage seed preparation and selection.

To register for the workshop, contact Dr. Allan Sabaldica at 433-2576 or Lawrence Duponcheel at 433-0639.

The Marianas Grazing Academy project has been made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, CSREES Outreach for Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers. ***(NMC)***

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, February 4, 2010 at 6:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Bldg., Saipan.

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
5. Communications

B. Reports
1. Chairman
2. Secretary
3. Treasurer
4. Administrator
5. Committees
6. Legal Counsel

C. Public Comments

D. Permits/ Applications/ Rezones: review and decide.
1. None

E. Old Business.
1. Proposed measures for nonconforming structures/ uses & nuisance (Presentation; no action)
2. Proposed amendments to Saipan Zoning Law of 2008
   a. Update on proposed amendments to the 2008 Saipan Zoning Law (Presentation; no action)

F. New Business.
1. Update on Zoning Enforcement Activities
2. Hiring of New Zoning Administrator

G. Executive (Closed) Session - Consult with Legal Counsel regarding pending or anticipated legal matters

H. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Theresa Ogumoro, Acting Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Herminia M. Fusco, Chair, Zoning Board

INVITATION FOR BID

The United States Department of Agriculture/ Natural Resources Conservation Service will be accepting bids for Waterway A, B & C construction work for the Kagman Watershed project, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Performance time is 760 days after the receipt of Notice to Proceed. A pre-bid meeting/site showing will be held at **10:00 am (Saipan Time) Friday January 29, 2010** at the Santa Soledad Church, Cha-cha Rd., Kagman. Submitted bids must be received before **2:00 pm (Hawaii Standard Time) Friday February 19, 2010** at: USDA Natural Recourses Conservation Service, P.O. Box 50004, Honolulu, HI 96859-0050. The full bid package and all other information may only be obtained and downloaded at the following website after **January 21, 2010.** (Hawaii Standard Time)

https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=main&mode=list&tab=list

(Search with solicitation number: AG-9251-S-10-0001, select packages tab to view full bid package.)

(NO HARDCOPIES WILL BE HANDED OUT):

This project is funded by the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009.

WANTED

NEWS REPORTER

Saipan Tribune, the CNMI's first daily newspaper, is looking for a full-time news reporter to join our team.

Qualifications:

- College graduate (bachelor's or associate's degree)
- Must have above average writing skills, with strong grasp of grammar, punctuation, spelling, and syntax;
- Curious and must have a passion for news;
- Methodical, detail-oriented, and can work fast within strict deadlines;
- Fast learner, self-starter, aggressive, and a team player;
- This is a full-time job. Must be able to work on holidays, weekends, late nights, and on short notice;
- Computer literate

If you think you have what it takes to be part of this dynamic team, e-mail your most recent résumé and portfolio to editor@saipantribune.com. You may also drop it off at the *Saipan Tribune* office on the second floor of the JP Center on Beach Road, Garapan. On-island hires preferred.

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Saipan Tribune is an equal employment opportunity employer.

Opinion

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Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press
Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Haiti on the brink

The world has responded with tremendous generosity to the destruction in Haiti after last week's earthquake, but the breakdown of security and order there threatens to multiply the already terrible death toll if the food, water and medicine pouring into the country can't be distributed properly. Relief officials now estimate that the death toll could rise as high as 200,000, with hundreds of thousands more left seriously injured or homeless.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon plans to send 3,500 more peacekeeping troops to Haiti, and the first waves of a planned force of 5,000 American soldiers and Marines have already arrived on the island nation and taken over key tasks, such as the running of the airport. Haiti's own police and military forces disintegrated in the quake's aftermath, so foreign troops are the only forces capable of maintaining a semblance of order there. But even with the arrival of the Marines and an expanded contingent of U.N. peacekeepers, the international boots on the ground are going to be stretched painfully thin.

To put things in context, Baltimore has about one police officer for every 200 residents, and that's for a city that, for all its problems, is completely functional. To have the equivalent law enforcement presence in Haiti, you'd need nearly 50,000 troops.

Given the history of American occupation and meddling in Haiti's affairs, the presence of American troops is a tricky business, but the U.S. needs to take charge both in the effort to restore order and in the effort to rebuild. Policing operations need to focus on stopping looters and preventing a resurgence of the criminal gangs that have terrorized the population in the past, but foreign security forces should avoid becoming entangled in disputes between property owners and the squatters who have erected tent cities on any available piece of land. In a city where half the quake's survivors have been rendered homeless, every effort must be taken not to alienate the millions of people who have suddenly become refugees in their own country.

Meanwhile, reconstruction efforts should begin with rebuilding Haiti's shattered infrastructure: hospitals, schools and government buildings and basic services such as water, electricity and telecommunications. This is a commitment that will take years, if not decades, to fulfill, but in undertaking it the U.S. is making a statement to the world of our dedication to humanitarian principles that, because of our size, resources, experience and proximity, we have a unique ability and responsibility to uphold.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton needs to continue to focus on working closely with the Haitian government to ensure that our efforts there are effective and remain welcome. For all the resentment American might has bred throughout the world, and in Haiti in particular, now is an opportunity to show how our power can be used for good.

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IT'S UNFAIR! I JUST GET A NEW GIG AND THE NETWORK UPSTAGES ME WITH THEIR FAVORITE BIG-NAME TV COMIC! I'M OUTTA HERE!
CONAN
...IF NBC WILL TAKE ME BACK...
CONAN
PALIN
FOX
KEVIN SIERS CHARLOTTE OBSERVER ©2010

God, why make Haiti suffer even more?

By BOB RAY SANDERS
(c) 2010, Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Bob Ray Sanders is a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram*. Readers may write to him at: 400 W. 7th Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, or via e-mail at bobray@star-telegram.com.*

While a college student, I made it a point to come home every weekend to teach a Sunday school class—a class in which students were required to think beyond what they thought they knew about the Scriptures.

Our pastor—the only one the church had known since its founding in a tent under a large pecan tree many years earlier—had a habit of eavesdropping on Sunday school lessons. From his study, where he kept his door ajar, he could easily hear my class because it was held in the sanctuary, with class members seated in the first few pews.

The minister always had the last word of Sunday school, sometimes commenting on something he heard during a teacher's lecture, usually mentioning things he thought had not been picked up from the Scriptural text and occasionally just giving a preview of what he was going to preach about in the 11 o'clock service.

One Sunday, the preacher heard me, in responding to a student's inquiry, say, "Of course, you can question God. By all means, God is big enough to be questioned."

In his Sunday school summary, and again a few minutes later during his sermon, the minister corrected and derided a Sunday school teacher who "thinks he's smart enough to question God."

He insisted, while noting that not everyone who goes to college should necessarily be considered intelligent, that there was one in the congregation who had the audacity to interrogate God. For several Sundays my naive insolence was a subject from the pulpit.

Much later in life, while attending the funeral for a young victim of gang violence, I heard another minister tell the boy's family that while they may not understand, they could be sure God makes no mistakes. He concluded that they were never to question God.

Needless to say, I disagreed with the eulogist.

It is my belief that through questioning the "acts of God," individuals are able to think through their faith, build on it and in so doing come to have a better understanding of the Creator.

I also believe, in contrast to many of my family and friends, that God is not sitting around in his heaven directing every act by every individual as if they were marionettes and he was the great puppeteer.

After all, God gave us minds and hearts—the capacity to think and feel and the ability to act on those things. It was not he who put the gun in a teenager's hand and directed him to shoot another because the victim was wearing the wrong color or happened to be in the wrong neighborhood. You can't blame that on God.

Surely the Creator does not spend his time moving his creations around like chess pieces and then periodically destroying them en masse just to make a point. Or does he?

Then came Haiti, a country devastated by poverty, corrupt government and all the ills that come with them. Once again, I found myself questioning God, just as I had during the aftermath of Katrina, the 2004 tsunami, genocides in the Sudan and Rwanda, and a host of other man-made and natural disasters.

How could God heap upon the already struggling people of Haiti the full force of an earthquake that would destroy its capital, kill up to perhaps 200,000 people, injure 250,000 more and leave 1.5 million homeless? Why would he do this?

The more I've thought about it this past week, the more I've come to understand that the correct question is not "Why?" Nor should it be directed at God.

We should be asking ourselves, "What do we do now to help those people endure their current pain and emerge from this catastrophe?"

There are many good things that will come from this tragedy because individuals from all walks of life and from all over the world are rising to the challenge of assisting and comforting these people in need.

Countries around the globe are focused on the tiny island nation like never before. Sadly, it took a calamity to make that happen.

It is easy to see the hopelessness in the eyes of the victims, but I've been more inspired by the resiliency in the faces of those who are enduring another major setback, refusing to succumb to the devastation around them.

As funds, materials and people pour into Haiti to assist those clinging to life—some still buried in the rubble—we can begin to see the possibility of a greater good coming out of this tragedy. Any questions we have should be directed at each other, not God.

We know what we must do.

First, we have to serve the immediate needs of those suffering from hunger and thirst, injuries and lack of shelter.

Then the world community must begin the real hard work of rebuilding a nation that was in shambles before Jan. 12.

It can be done, and I sincerely believe it will be done.

In the midst of misery, God has given us a marvelous opportunity, one that we dare not forsake.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

5 myths about hawks, doves and politics

By JULIAN E. ZELIZER
Special to The Washington Post

Zelizer, a professor of history and public affairs at Princeton University, is the author of Arsenal of Democracy: The Politics of National Security–From World War II to the War on Terrorism.

Since the botched Christmas bombing plot, many of the president's Republican critics have tried to portray him as soft on national security. "Why doesn't he want to admit we're at war?" Dick Cheney asked. Democrats get nervous when the conversation turns to these questions; they're used to being unfavorably stereotyped as doves—or worse, wimps—while the GOP is portrayed as hawkish and strong on defense. But a look back at the past 60 years finds plenty of Democratic hawks, Republican doves and any number of curious crossbreeds.

1 Most Republican presidents have been hawks.

While Republicans often talk like hawks, they don't usually end up governing that way. Dwight Eisenhower, who was elected president on the strength of his reputation as a war hero, fought to cut military spending and ended his presidency with an address warning of a "military-industrial complex."

In the 1950s, Richard Nixon was known as a committed anti-communist, and in the 1960s, he railed against Lyndon Johnson for not using America's full arsenal in the Vietnam War. As president, he broadened operations in Cambodia and Laos and authorized a brutal bombing campaign against the North Vietnamese. But there was another side to Nixon, one that contributed to his landslide re-election in 1972. From his presidency's start, he hoped to undercut the antiwar movement by ending the conflict. "The president should become known next year," said Chief of Staff H.R. Haldeman in 1970, "as `Mr. Peace.' " Through Nixon's Vietnamization policy, the United States gradually withdrew its forces from Vietnam and ended the draft.

Most important, Nixon's policy of detente aimed to ease Cold War tensions. In 1972, the United States and the Soviets signed the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty and Nixon visited communist China, shocking conservatives.

Even Ronald Reagan, who early in his presidency talked tough against the Soviets, proposed a vast increase in defense spending and launched covert wars in Central America, changed dramatically over his time in office. Between 1985 and 1987, he conducted arms-control negotiations with Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev. And he signed the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, which helped reduce tensions between the two superpowers.

2 Americans consistently prefer hawkish leaders.

Many presidents have promoted alternatives to military force and remained popular. John F. Kennedy rejected military advice to strike Cuba during the missile crisis and, in 1963, signed the Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. "I realize that the pursuit of peace is not as dramatic as the pursuit of war," he said that year, "but we have no more urgent task." Kennedy enjoyed an average approval rating of 70 percent.

Despite being stereotyped as doves, Democrats have often waged effective campaigns against Republican hawks. Johnson's devastatingly effective television advertisement, the famous "Daisy" mushroom cloud ad, warning voters that GOP presidential candidate Barry Goldwater would lead the nation into nuclear war.

In 2008, Barack Obama positioned himself as the candidate who would change the way the war on terror was fought, while John McCain ran as a hawk, emphasizing his support for the "surge" in Iraq and his background as a Vietnam veteran. It was Obama, who championed diplomacy and multilateralism, advocated withdrawing troops from Iraq and criticized Bush's counterterrorism tactics, who won.

3 Republican presidents believe in the use of overwhelming military force.

Traditionally, Republicans have not been interested in using all-out force. Since early in the Cold War, they have argued that Americans can win wars without requiring great sacrifice from the citizenry, they've advocated airpower over ground troops, and they've supported a limited professional Army rather than a draft. They have wanted to win, but cheaply, quickly and without long-term commitments.

George H.W. Bush led the nation through two military operations: to capture Panamanian leader Manuel Noriega and to remove Iraqi forces from Kuwait. But while he followed the "Powell doctrine"—when the United States uses force, it should be overwhelming—his objectives were limited. In the case of Iraq, Bush said from the outset that he had no interest in regime change and stuck to that promise after a swift victory in Kuwait.

4 George W. Bush was the ultimate hawk.

Cheney and the neocon advisers of Bush's first term pushed an aggressive response to the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. The resulting "Bush doctrine" endorsed regime change and led to two wars and the cessation of diplomatic relations with hostile regimes, among other things.

By his second term, Bush began to back away from some of his positions. He played down threats of military action against countries such as North Korea and Iran. By some accounts, Cheney became extremely frustrated with the growing influence of Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and with the president's shift away from a harder position against terrorism and toward greater cooperation with allies. Cheney's ally, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, was replaced by Robert Gates, who argued that the war in Iraq was not working and that changes to strategy were needed. And after Bush ordered a "surge" of troops in 2007 to stabilize conditions in Iraq, he agreed to a schedule for withdrawing troops and turning power over to the Iraqis.

5 Democrats may pretend to be hawkish but remain dovish at heart.

To the contrary, hawkish Democrats have a proud tradition. Harry Truman worked with a Republican Congress to create the Cold War national security state in 1947 and 1948. In promoting what came to be known as the Truman doctrine, whereby the United States committed to helping anti-communist forces worldwide, he used bellicose rhetoric, following Sen. Arthur Vandenberg's advice to "scare the hell out of the American people."

In the 1950s, a group of Senate Democrats, including Washington's Henry "Scoop" Jackson, attacked Eisenhower's campaign to cut military spending and warned that the country was endangered by a "missile gap"—an idea Kennedy exploited in his 1960 campaign. In the 1970s, Jackson became one of the most vocal advocates in either party of a more aggressive stance against the Soviets, and led a group of neoconservative Democrats in pushing for more defense spending and opposing arms-control negotiations.

Bill Clinton reinvigorated his party's national security credentials by authorizing military operations in Bosnia and Kosovo and bombing Iraq several times. He also made early strikes against al-Qaida, as in 1998, when he responded to the bombings of U.S. Embassies in Africa by attacking suspected al-Qaida sites in Sudan and Afghanistan.

Most recently, Obama has authorized sending more troops to Afghanistan. The sight of a Democrat ramping up a war started by a Republican goes to show that, however dovish or hawkish members of the two parties may sound on the public stage, what they do when it comes time to govern is a different matter.

Six messages for the Democrats

By MARGARET CARLSON
(c) 2010, Bloomberg News

Margaret Carlson, author of Anyone Can Grow Up: How George Bush and I Made It to the White House *and former White House correspondent for* Time magazine*, is a* Bloomberg News *columnist.*

WASHINGTON—It is hard to exaggerate the profound historical defeat suffered by Democrats in Massachusetts on Tuesday. A smooth guy in a GM pickup who posed nude for Cosmopolitan magazine won a U.S. Senate seat in the most highly educated, relatively prosperous, "don't blame me, I voted for McGovern" state in the union.

That doesn't mean there won't be hyperbole. Fox News's Glenn Beck said he doesn't trust Senator-elect Scott Brown and warned that Brown's term in Washington "could end with a dead intern." What does this clown—Beck takes a comedy act on the road—drink before his show?

Brown himself says his win wasn't a referendum on Barack Obama: "It's bigger than that."

Hard to be bigger than a thunderbolt. So what did we learn, if anything, on Tuesday?

■ Message One: If you look the slightest bit in, you are out.

In 2008, voters didn't choose Obama; they chose the outsider promising to be the new sheriff in town. Democrat Martha Coakley, as Massachusetts' sitting attorney general, was the sheriff in town, but not a new one. In the narrative of us vs. them, the banks vs. the bank depositors, the insurance companies vs. the insurance buyers, Coakley became the "them."

■ Message Two: Don't get Coakleyed.

Democrats just crawling out from under their beds are swearing off complacency, wholesale campaigning and pinstripes in favor of pressing the flesh, traveling by truck and giving the impression you just fell off one.

Also, don't take a Caribbean vacation in the midst of a campaign—maybe no vacation, anywhere. It's true no one wanted Coakley drowning out "Jingle Bells" over Christmas. That doesn't mean you should flee someplace warm when your constituents are freezing over the holidays, worried about jobs.

Other things on the not-to-do-list: Don't complain about shaking hands outside Fenway Park in the early-morning chill. Don't insult your homeboys by not knowing the local hero. Don't pour salt on the insult by insisting the hero, former Red Sox pitcher Curt Schilling, is a Yankee fan.

■ Message Three: Resist impulse to over-attribute loss to an unusually bad candidate. (That is, take Message Two with a grain of salt.)

So Coakley's a doofus, okay. One of the few worthwhile insights gained from dwelling inside the Beltway is that we've met our share of doofuses who call the Senate home. You can count on one hand the number of people not related by blood or marriage to the non-geniuses in charge of the Senate, Mitch McConnell and Harry Reid, who feel warmly toward them.

■ Message Four: Don't believe that the rejection of a Democrat translates into sudden love for Republicans who crippled the economy, redistributed wealth from the middle class to big business and the rich, and waged a trillion-dollar war in the wrong country. There's no mandate to back off fixing our problems.

■ Message Five: It's not only about health care. It's about the shady banks, and joblessness, too. But it's partly about health care.

Massachusetts is the canary in the mine. If universal, government-subsidized health care isn't working there, why would residents of that state support the similar yet inferior national plan that would be implemented under the Senate bill?

Put another way: If Massachusetts, with one of the smaller state deficits, can't afford Romney-care, imagine how the country—with a proportionally much bigger deficit, more uninsured and an economy in worse shape—is going to do with a similarly flawed plan.

■ Message Six: What happened in Massachusetts is a free glimpse into the future for Obama.

President Bill Clinton had to lose the whole Congress in 1994 to waken from his stupor and take on the deficit, balancing the budget and welfare reform.

At this very moment, Democrats in tough races, and even those in easier ones, are dreaming of ways not to have to vote for the health-care bill. Obama looked at the picture from the Bay State and told ABC in an interview that Congress shouldn't try to "jam" health-care legislation through before Brown is seated.

To get support from Democrats, much less Republicans, Obama is going to have to break health care into smaller pieces the public can understand and that Republicans can't so easily demonize. How can Republicans go home and explain they voted in favor of Aetna and against their constituents, or in favor of cherry-picking healthy policy-holders while dropping sick people?

Government shouldn't be the ogre forcing people to buy insurance under draconian penalties. People want insurance when they can afford it. Young people can be lured in with cheap catastrophic policies. Seniors' drug costs should be covered above the current $2,250 cutoff. And who could be against computerizing medical records so people don't get the wrong blood type or drug that will kill them?

Obama should be cutting deals with Republicans instead of bribing Democrats with smelly deals that benefit a few. Give the GOP malpractice reform (not a bad idea anyway) in exchange for a public-option trigger and reform of the-fee-for-service payment structure that's crippling us financially without healing us medically.

Oh, and broadcast it all on C-Span.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy. Isolated showers. Northeast winds 20 to 25 mph.	Mostly sunny and breezy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼73°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲83	▼73
Palau	Showers	▲87	▼76
Yap	Cloudy	▲87	▼76
Chuuk	Rain	▲89	▼77
Pohnpei	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼79
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲86	▼74
Majuro	Rain	▲85	▼79

Around The Globe

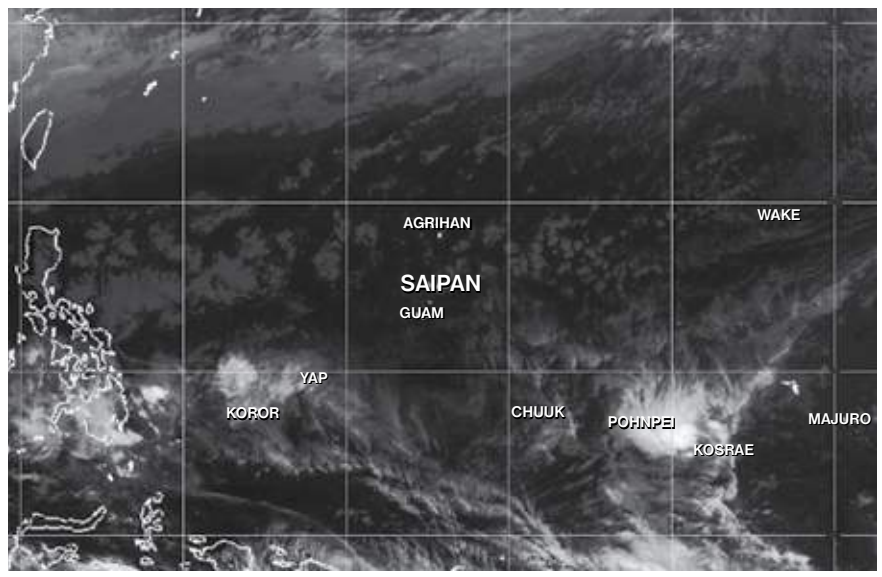
Auckland	Rain	▲70	▼62
Beijing	Sunny	▲32	▼22
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲79	▼66
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	▲79	▼66
London	Cloudy	▲45	▼36
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲56	▼44
Manila	Showers	▲85	▼72
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲73	▼53
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼70
New York	Sunny	▲40	▼34
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲43	▼31
Paris	Showers	▲41	▼38
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲43	▼24
Rome	Sunny	▲47	▼29
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲47	▼33
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲54	▼44
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲30	▼17
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲47	▼30
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲44	▼34

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:42 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
6:06 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
12:25 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
7:52 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends southwestward from 21N180 to 10N160 to east of Chuuk at 7N154E. Widespread cloudiness and areas of rain are found along and up to 300 miles northwest of the shear line east of 174E west of 174E. Scattered light showers are occurring along and up to 200 miles north of the shear line including Chuuk. Cloudiness and areas of rain associated with a cold front south of Japan are found north of a line from 24N130E to 25N140E. A shear-line remnant is producing scattered showers across Yap and Palau within 75 miles of a line from 8N134E to 10N139E to 8N141E. A weak circulation centered south of Pohnpei near 4N158E is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in the area bounded by 5N161E to Pohnpei to 8N162E back to 5N161E. Cloudiness and scattered showers associated with a disturbance east of the date line are occurring well east of the Marshall Islands between 6N and 9N from 178E to 180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:10 PM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:11 PM
Monday	6:47 AM	6:11 PM
Tuesday	6:47 AM	6:12 PM
Wednesday	6:47 AM	6:13 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:28 AM	
Sunday	12:12 PM	12:30 AM
Monday	1:01 PM	1:26 AM
Tuesday	1:56 PM	2:26 AM
Wednesday	2:58 PM	3:28 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 23, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW287	6:00am	7:30pm	Daily via NRT
NW638	8:00am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily
NW289	5:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am	
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 via PUS
C09603/893	3:15pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-PALAU
OZ606/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7 via ICN
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:10am	3:45am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:00am	2:30am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:00am	2:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09598	2:00am	3:45am	5, 6 via ROP
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW288	12:05pm	1:35am+1	Daily via NRT effective Jan 25
NW277	8:30pm	1:00am+1	3, 6
NW639	9:00pm	1:35am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW298	10:05am	2:50pm	Daily
NW288	9:00pm	1:35am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm	
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ716/605	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via PALAU-GUM
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship
Wednesday
7pm worship
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan. 23, 2001

EPA rules on shipment of PCB to mainland US

The US Environmental Protection Agency has signed the rule to allow polychlorinated biphenyl-contaminated materials from the territories outside the federal customs zone to be shipped to the mainland US for disposal. The newly-signed rule, according to Guam Rep. Robert A. Underwood, specifically mentioned Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Marianas, and the US Virgin Islands. "After several months of discussion and rule making, we're very happy to report that this has now been resolved. This is great news for Guam—even greater news for the Northern Marianas, which continues to suffer with PCB problems from formerly-used defense sites in Saipan," Mr. Underwood said.

Transit ban on Chinese may benefit CNMI

The directive issued by the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service, barring Chinese nationals without visa from transiting to American ports, may work to the advantage of the Northern Marianas. Ports Authority Executive Director Carlos H. Salas said the INS order has the possibility to give birth to direct flights to Saipan, especially those coming from Hong Kong which carry passengers from the mainland China. "It might be a good thing for the CNMI. Since there are flights coming in from major destinations in Asia that carry Saipan-bound Chinese passengers, some airlines might consider flying direct to Saipan before proceeding to Guam," said Mr. Salas in an interview.

Jan. 23, 2002

Gaming industry may fuel economic growth

With the impending phase-out of the garment industry in the Commonwealth in 2004, the government should consider the gaming industry on Tinian as an alternate source of revenue that would keep the CNMI's economic engine going. Tinian Sen. Jose Dela Cruz said he suggested this idea to Gov. Juan N. Babauta during a meeting where they discussed the projected shortfall in revenues brought on by the continuing decline in the local economy. "Since the garment industry will be phasing out eventually, I suggested to the Governor that we should look at the gaming industry on Tinian and try to nurture that so that, hopefully, we can realize a good return on that particular industry," the senator said.

Saipan senators get sharper claw

In an overt gesture of reaching out to the Saipan senatorial delegation, upper chamber leaders appointed Sen. Thomas P. Villagomez as chairman of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Government and Law. At the same time, all three Saipan senators-Villagomez, Sen. Pete P. Reyes and Sen. Ramon S. Guerrero-were accommodated as members in some of the committees. This came about with the official announcement of the composition of the Senate committee officers yesterday, in what Senate Floor Leader Joaquin G. Adriano called an installation listing provided to Commonwealth government officials, as well as to autonomous agencies and the media.

Jan. 23, 2004

Group discovers marijuana, turtle shell in cleanup site

The cleanup activity being conducted by the Environmental Interagency Cleanup Operation Team has resulted in an unexpected find other than assorted trash: A marijuana shrub safely planted on a pot and a turtle shell. The discovery prompted EICOT to call the police and the wildlife conservation office to respond to the cleanup site in Dandan, particularly on the shoulder road leading to the old Western Equipment, Inc. quarry site. EICOT chairman Benny Pangelinan disclosed this, saying that police confiscated the marijuana plant. He said EICOT representatives discovered the plant hidden in a bushy area Tuesday.

HPMR saves GHLI $13.3M in '01-'02

Since Sept. 1, 2001 up to Dec. 31, 2002-a period of 16 months-Hawaii Pacific Medical Referral has managed to slash some 65.03 percent off the total charges submitted as claims to the Group Health and Life Insurance program, bringing down the total charges from $20.45 million to just $7.15 million. This translates to a savings of $13.3 million for the NMI Retirement Fund. Latest available figures showed that, of the total $20.45 million in charges incurred within the period covered, some $6.89 million were deemed ineligible charges that could not be charged to the program. This includes some $3.08 million in duplicate claims, as well as treatments not covered by the plan and medicines not covered under the authorized formulary.

Business

Obama hits Wall Street, pushes for bank limits

WASHINGTON (AP)—Embracing Depression-era policy and populist politics, a combative President Barack Obama chastised big Wall Street banks Thursday and urgently called for limits on their size and investments to stave off a new economic meltdown.

Investors responded by dumping bank stock.

Obama's rhetoric covered the whole financial industry, but the key changes will affect only a few high-profile players, including JPMorgan Chase & Co., while sparing investment banks like Goldman Sachs Group Inc. The move could undercut Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner's strategy of maintaining close ties with the financial industry as part of the administration's overhaul efforts.

Obama

"We have to get this done," Obama said at the White House. "If these folks want a fight, it's a fight I'm ready to have."

"We've come through a terrible crisis," the president said, pivoting the White House focus from health care to an economy that has been slow to recover during his first year in office. "The American people have paid a very high price. ... That's why we're going to rein in the excess and abuse that nearly brought down our financial system." Markets tumbled on the news, the Dow Jones industrial average losing 213 points and continuing this week's slide that has erased the Dow's gains for 2010 and provided yet another dire sign for recovery.

Obama's announcement included changes that have been advocated for over a year by former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker—who appeared with the president at the White House—particularly by endorsing Volcker's proposal to ban banks that take deposits from also trading stocks for their own profit. The change would separate commercial banks from investment banks, a line that was blurred a decade ago by the repeal of the Depression-era Glass-Steagall Act.

That won't help, suggested Rob Nichols, president of the Financial Services Forum, an industry group representing 18 of the largest financial companies.

"Proposals to preemptively break up large, well-managed and well-capitalized banking companies—or to reimpose Glass-Steagall restrictions—are based on a misdiagnosis of the causes of the financial crisis," he said.

Neither the president's proposal, which would need congressional approval to take effect, nor his aggressive tone is likely to help the administration's case in working with Wall Street and finding support from banks that will need to boost lending to support an economic recovery.

Stuck gas pedal causes 2nd major Toyota recall

NEW YORK (AP)—Toyota Motor Corp. built its reputation in the U.S. as a maker of safe and dependable vehicles, but the quality of the Japanese automaker's fleet continues to be tarnished by serious safety recalls.

Toyota said Thursday it is recalling 2.3 million vehicles in the U.S. to fix accelerator pedals with mechanical problems that could cause them to become stuck. The announcement comes just months after it recalled 4.2 million vehicles due to gas pedals that could become trapped under floor mats, causing sudden acceleration. That problem was the cause of several crashes, including some fatalities.

Toyota said Thursday's recall is due to potential problems with the gas pedal mechanism that can cause the accelerator to become stuck—regardless of whether the vehicle contains a floor mat. Toyota said in certain rare cases, the gas pedal mechanism wears down, causing the accelerator to become harder to press, slower to return or, in some cases, stuck.

In a letter to federal safety officials dated Thursday, Toyota said the problem appeared to be related to the potential build-up of condensation on sliding surfaces in the accelerator system that helps drivers push down or release the gas pedal.

Toyota spokesman John Hanson said the automaker does not yet have a solution to the latest problem but is working to develop one. Toyota will soon be contacting owners directly about the recall, he said.

The recall affects the 2009-2010 RAV4, the 2009-2010 Corolla, the 2009-2010 Matrix, the 2005-2010 Avalon, the 2007-2010 Camry, the 2010 Highlander, the 2007-2010 Tundra and the 2008-2010 Sequoia. Of these, the Avalon, Camry and Tundra models—encompassing about 1.7 million vehicles—also were included in the previous gas pedal recall. Their accelerator pedals could be at risk both of becoming trapped under floor mats and becoming stuck due to mechanical problems.

Nation

Jet diverts to Philly over teen passenger's prayer

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A Jewish teenager trying to pray on a New York-to-Kentucky flight caused a scare Thursday when he pulled out a set of small boxes containing holy scrolls, leading the captain to divert the flight to Philadelphia, where the commuter plane was greeted by police, bomb-sniffing dogs and federal agents.

The 17-year-old on US Airways Express Flight 3079 was using tefillin, a set of small boxes containing biblical passages that are attached to leather straps, Philadelphia police Lt. Frank Vanore said.

When used in prayer, one box is strapped to the arm while the other box is placed on the head.

"It's something that the average person is not going to see very often, if ever," FBI spokesman J.J. Klaver said.

The teen explained the ritual after being questioned by crew members of the flight, which had left LaGuardia Airport around 7:30 a.m. headed for Louisville and was operated by Chautauqua Airlines, authorities said.

Officials with the airline, however, said crew members "did not receive a clear response" when they talked with the teen, according to a statement issued by Republic Airways, which owns Chautauqua.

"Therefore, in the interest of everyone's safety, the crew decided to land in Philadelphia, where a more complete investigation and follow-up with authorities would be possible," the statement said.

The flight landed in Philadelphia about 9 a.m. without incident and was met by police, bomb-sniffing dogs and officials from the FBI and Transportation Security Administration.

Authorities said the plane was searched and passengers were questioned. The teen, who is from White Plains, N.Y., and was traveling with his 16-year-old sister, was very cooperative, Vanore said.

"They were more alarmed than we were," Vanore said.

Klaver said the teen and his sister were never in custody and were cleared to continue their travels.

The teen's grandmother, who was waiting for him at Louisville International Airport, said the early flight left no time to pray before leaving New York.

"He hadn't had the opportunity to pray, so that is why he did it on the plane," Frances Winchell said.

She said the episode was traumatic for the boy, whose mother requested that he not give interviews.

"But in any event," she added, "all's well that ends well, and maybe some good will come to the world because of it."

The teen, who belongs to the congregation Young Israel of White Plains, is "a brilliant student" from "the sweetest family," said Shmuel Greenberg, the synagogue's rabbi.

The morning prayer ritual is supposed to take place within a few hours of sunrise, so it's understandable that the teen was doing it on the plane, Greenberg said.

Binding the boxes of holy scrolls to the arm and head serves as "a reminder for the person that their actions during the day, and what they think about during the day, should be on a level of holiness and should inspire them to do productive, good things," he said.

The rabbi said he could see how someone unfamiliar with the tefillin could be alarmed.

"Security today is a serious issue. You can't become educated up in the air," Greenberg said. "I can definitely see a pilot or a crew that never saw it before in today's environment be very, very concerned."

Another rabbi, however, said tefillin have been used for thousands of years and he found it hard to believe no one recognized it. Benjamin Blech, an assistant professor of Talmud at Yeshiva University in New York, said he found the incident "both humorous and outlandish" and called it a "wake-up call" for religious sensitivity.

AP

A diverted plane is escorted by to a terminal at Philadelphia International Airport in Philadelphia, Thursday, Jan. 21, 2010. A misunderstanding about an Orthodox Jewish prayer ritual led a US Airways Express captain to divert his Kentucky-bound plane to Philadelphia on Thursday, authorities said.

Obama health plan in doubt as Dems reject fast fix

WASHINGTON (AP)—Though reeling from a political body blow, House Democrats rejected the quickest fix to their health care dilemma Thursday and signaled that any agreement on President Barack Obama's signature issue will come slowly, if at all.

Democrats weighed a handful of difficult options as they continued to absorb Republican Scott Brown's election to the Massachusetts Senate seat long held by Edward M. Kennedy. Several said Obama must forcefully help them find a way to avoid the humiliation of enacting no bill, and they urged him to do so quickly, to put the painful process behind them.

House leaders said they could not pass a Senate-approved bill, standing by itself, because of objections from liberals and moderates alike. Such a move could have settled the matter, because it would not have required further Senate action. Brown's stunning victory restored the GOP's power to block bills with Senate filibusters.

Democratic leaders weighed two main options, both problematic. The first would require congressional Democrats to muscle their way past stiff GOP objections despite warning signs from Massachusetts voters and worries about next November's elections.

Obama

The other would pare down the original health care legislation in hopes of gaining some Republican support. But the compromise process is more difficult than many lawmakers suggest.

Democrats' hopes of settling on a strategy by the weekend seemed to fade, as lawmakers struggled to comprehend the drawbacks of every option.

"We have to get a bill passed," said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., because her party would have no excuse for failing to revamp health care when it controls Congress and the White House.

Some lawmakers said it will take time for congressional Democrats, who huddled repeatedly Thursday, to realize how limited their options are. "People are at various levels of the seven stages of grief," said Rep. Anthony Weiner, D-N.Y.

The first chief option would require House Democrats to approve the Senate-passed bill along with a guarantee that the Senate would make several simultaneous changes to health law desired by the House.

4th California storm stokes mudslide fears

LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE, Calif. (AP)—Hours of heavy rain fell Thursday on saturated Southern California as the fourth Pacific storm in a week came ashore, triggering dire warnings by authorities that huge mud flows were likely in foothill communities and residents of endangered homes should obey evacuation orders.

A teen was rescued from a rushing river but a companion remained missing in Orange County, and the fate of a motorist spotted under tornado-toppled power poles in the state's remote southeast corner was unknown.

Travel snarls mounted as major highways were closed by snow and tornado damage, and strong winds grounded flights at several airports. Another tornado left a trail of damage in a community northwest of Los Angeles.

The siege of storms has led to several deaths statewide and street flooding in urban areas, and has turned the region's often-dry river and creek channels into raging torrents.

Muddy water gushed down hills but there were no immediate major incidents, and officials appeared concerned the lack of massive debris flows from wildfire burn areas was misleading for residents.

Witness: Peterson indicated he'd kill his 4th wife

JOLIET, Ill. (AP)—The stepbrother of a former Illinois police officer accused of killing his third wife told a hushed courtroom Thursday that he believed he might have helped his relative dispose of the body of his fourth wife, who has not been seen for more than two years.

Thomas Morphey testified at a hearing to decide whether prosecutors can use "hearsay" evidence to try and prove allegations that Drew Peterson killed his third wife, Kathleen Savio, in 2004. Peterson hasn't been charged in the 2007 disappearance of his fourth wife, Stacy, but authorities say he is the only suspect.

While the Will County hearing is about the death of Savio, Thursday's testimony focused on the day Stacy Peterson disappeared. Prosecutors would not say why Morphey was being asked to testify about Stacy Peterson, but Will County state's attorney's office spokesman Chuck Pelkie said the reasons would become clear in the proceedings.

In a packed but quiet courtroom, Morphey said Peterson suggested when they talked on Oct. 27, 2007, that he intended to kill Stacy because she planned to divorce him, win custody of their children and take Peterson's money.

ACROSS THE NATION

7th suspect in Calif. homecoming gang rape charged

RICHMOND, Calif. (AP)—A seventh suspect has been charged in the alleged gang rape of a girl outside a Northern California high school homecoming dance. Contra Costa County prosecutors on Thursday charged 43-year-old John Crane Jr. of Richmond with forcible rape in concert and a special allegation of personally participating in the crime. He is being held on $100,000 bail. The San Francisco Chronicle reports that Crane and the attorney who helped him surrender both declined to comment. Crane is one of seven people whom authorities say sexually assaulted a 16-year-old girl outside Richmond High School in October.

LA school district sued over alleged drug sting

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The family of a 12-year-old boy is suing the Los Angeles school district, claiming that three administrators asked the student to take part in a drug sting operation. According to the lawsuit filed Thursday, the educators gave the boy cash and told him to buy drugs from a suspected drug dealer, even though the plan was not sanctioned by police. The lawsuit says the sting was enacted after the boy told Porter Middle School administrators that a 14-year-old was selling marijuana on campus. The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages. Attorney Alexander Calfo says asking a minor to purchase drugs is a felony. District spokeswoman Monica Carazo says she had not seen the lawsuit, so she could not comment.

Fla. woman just out of prison allegedly steals car

NEW PORT RICHEY, Fla. (AP)—A 49-year-old woman has been jailed in Pasco County, accused of stealing a car on her first day out of prison. Theresa Jones faces charges of grand theft of a motor vehicle, cocaine possession and two counts of possession of drug paraphernalia. She was being held on $7,300 bond. Jones was released from Lowell Correctional Institution in Ocala on Wednesday at the end of a two-year, eight-month sentence. Authorities said she met a pen pal and they drove to a New Port Richey hotel. Jones took the man's car Wednesday night, saying she was going to buy beer. She was located Thursday morning. Jones told authorities that she stole the car so she could get drugs. It's unclear if she already has an attorney.

Asia

Gates stresses common cause with Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AP)—The United States has no designs on Pakistan's nuclear weapons or "a single inch of Pakistani soil," U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates told Pakistani military officers Friday, adding that fighting terrorists along the Afghan border is in Pakistan's interest as well as Washington's.

"We have enemies in common along the border, but we also have many other interests in common," Gates said, and the Pakistani military has choices to make about its resources and focus just as the U.S. armed forces have done.

Addressing the legacy of mistrust and what he called an "organized propaganda campaign" to misrepresent U.S. intentions, Gates used carefully calibrated phrasing to tick off some of the allegations against the United States in wide circulation in Pakistan.

"I fully understand why some of you may be skeptical about the U.S. commitment to Pakistan," Gates told officers at Pakistan's National Defense University.

Many in his audience came of professional age in the 1990s, when the United States had cut off military ties to Pakistan and largely ignored the growth of the Taliban in Afghanistan.

The United States wants Pakistan to take on Taliban militants who use its territory as a refuge, but Gates' rhetoric on the subject during two days of talks in the Pakistani capital was notably mild.

He said he was deeply impressed with Pakistan's military offensive against militants within its borders.

"The leadership will make the decisions" about when or whether they are going to do something. "That's just fine with me," Gates said during an interview with Pakistani and U.S. journalists.

Asked whether the U.S. was winning in the long battle against al-Qaida terrorism, Gates said the United States has made progress but hasn't won yet. He said al-Qaida and what he calls a syndicate of affiliated groups are less capable of large-scale, coordinated attacks than they once were and in many cases their leadership has been killed or captured.

The Obama administration has taken a softer tone with Pakistan in recent months, praising the country's unprecedented assault on militants inside its borders and dropping public appeals for Pakistan to focus on the militants along its western border.

In his speech to military officers, Gates said the U.S. seeks no military bases in the country and has no desire to control Pakistan's nuclear arsenal.

"The United States does not covet a single inch of Pakistani soil," Gates said.

Intel: Missile kills Filipino militant in Pakistan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan (AP)—A Filipino militant wanted by the United States is believed to have been killed in an American drone strike close to the Afghan border earlier this month, Pakistani intelligence officials said Thursday.

If confirmed, the death of Abdul Basit Usman would represent another success for the U.S. covert missile program on targets in Pakistan. There have been an unprecedented number of attacks this month following a deadly Dec. 30 militant attack on a CIA base in Afghanistan.

Two military intelligence officers in northwestern Pakistan said Usman was believed killed on Jan. 14 on the border of Pakistan's South and North Waziristan tribal regions. Another 11 militants were also killed in the strike on a militant compound. Authorities have previously said the attack had targeted the leader of the Pakistani Taliban, Hakimullah Mehsud.

There had been no previous indication Usman was in Pakistan. If the reports of his death in Pakistan are true, it may indicate stronger ties between al-Qaida and Southeast Asian terrorist groups than previously thought.

The U.S. State Department's list of most-wanted terrorists identifies Usman as a bomb-making expert with links to the Philippines-based Abu Sayyaf militant group and the Southeast Asian Jemaah Islamiyah network. It puts a bounty of U.S. $1 million for information leading to his conviction, and says he is believed responsible for bombings in the southern Philippines in 2006 and 2007 that killed 15 people.

AP Exclusive: US to tighten rules on Afghan raids

KABUL (AP)—NATO forces in Afghanistan are preparing to limit night raids on private homes, even if it means losing some tactical advantage, to curb rising public anger.

NATO spokesman Rear Adm. Gregory Smith told The Associated Press in an exclusive interview that a directive would be issued soon to set down the new rules.

Nighttime raids on private homes have emerged as the Afghans' No. 1 complaint after Gen. Stanley McChrystal limited the use of airstrikes and other weaponry last year. The U.S. and allied nations have made protecting the population a priority over the use of massive firepower as they seek to undermine support for the Taliban.

ASIAN BRIEFS

India issues terror alert over possible hijacking

NEW DELHI (AP)—An Indian aviation official says the country has issued a terror alert at its airports after receiving reports that al-Qaida-linked militants were plotting to hijack a plane. India's aviation spokeswoman Moushumi Chakravarty said Friday that airlines and airp rt operators were put on alert after intelligence services uncovered reports of the possible attack by Islamic extremists. She says airport security has been heightened and passengers were subjected to extra security checks. Indian media have reported that the plot was targeting an Air India or Indian Airlines flight destined for a neighboring South Asian country.

NATO planning civilian boss in Afghan

KABUL (AP)—The U.S. and its NATO partners are considering establishing a high ranking civilian post in Kabul to ensure that nonmilitary reconstruction activities focus on top priorities, international officials familiar with the issue said Thursday. The decision could be announced at an international conference Jan. 28 in London, where Afghan and international officials will map plans to shore up the Afghan government as the U.S. and its allies rush 37,000 more troops here to confront the Taliban. The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the issue is under discussion, said NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen had not made a final decision.

Arson attempts on 2 Malaysian Muslim prayer rooms

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Vandals tried to burn down two Muslim prayer rooms in Malaysia on Thursday, following a string of arson attacks on churches amid a dispute over the use of the word "Allah" by Christians. Religious tensions have risen after a court ruled Dec. 31 that non-Muslims can use "Allah" as a translation for "God" in the Malay language. Many among the country's ethnic Malay Muslim majority believe the word should be exclusive to Muslims, and its use by others could confuse some Muslims and even entice them to convert. Since Jan. 8, there have been assaults on 11 churches, a Sikh temple and a mosque—mostly by unknown assailants using firebombs. Police this week arrested eight suspects believed to have orchestrated the most serious attack, which partially gutted a church in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia's largest city.

World

US envoy starts Mideast tour amid Obama pessimism

JERUSALEM (AP)—Washington's Middle East envoy launched a new effort Thursday aimed at restarting Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations, just as President Barack Obama expressed pessimism about the prospects.

Already complicating envoy George Mitchell's mission was a new demand by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for an Israeli military presence in the West Bank to stop weapons smuggling, even after formation of a Palestinian state.

Mitchell met late Thursday with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, whose office released a brief statement saying they discussed ways to move the peace process forward and that contacts would continue.

As Mitchell began his mission, his boss, Obama, admitted he overreached in the Middle East.

In an interview with Time Magazine published Thursday, Obama said internal conflicts made it hard for the Israelis and Palestinians to restart talks, "and I think that we overestimated our ability to persuade them to do so when their politics ran contrary to that."

He said Israel "found it very hard to move with any bold gestures," while Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas had "Hamas looking over his shoulder."

Obama concluded, "I think it is absolutely true that what we did this year didn't produce the kind of breakthrough that we wanted and if we had anticipated some of these political problems on both sides earlier, we might not have raised expectations as high."

Before meeting Israeli President Shimon Peres Thursday, Mitchell pledged to soldier on. He said Obama's vision is a Palestinian state alongside Israel in peace. "We will pursue (that) until we achieve that objective," Mitchell said.

Haiti to relocate 400,000 quake homeless

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Within days, the government will move 400,000 people made homeless by Haiti's epic earthquake from their squalid improvised camps throughout the shattered capital to new resettlement areas on the outskirts, a top Haitian official said Thursday.

Authorities are worried about sanitation and disease outbreaks in makeshift settlements like the one on the city's central Champs de Mars plaza, said Fritz Longchamp, chief of staff to President Rene Preval.

"The Champ de Mars is no place for 1,000 or 10,000 people," Longchamp told The Associated Press. "They are going to be going to places where they will have at least some adequate facilities."

He said buses would start moving people within a week to 10 days, once new camps are ready. Brazilian U.N. peacekeepers were already leveling land in the suburb of Croix des Bouquets for a new tent city, the Geneva-based intergovernmental International Organization for Migration reported Thursday.

The hundreds of thousands whose homes were destroyed in the Jan. 12 quake had settled in more than 200 open spaces around the city, the lucky ones securing tents for their families, but most living under the tropical sun on blankets, on plastic sheets or under tarpaulins strung between tree limbs.

The announcement came as search-and-rescue teams packed their dogs and gear Thursday, with hopes almost gone of finding any more alive in the ruins. The focus shifted to keeping injured survivors alive, fending off epidemics and getting help to the hundreds of homeless still suffering.

"We're so, so hungry," said Felicie Colin, 77, lying outside the ruins of her Port-au-Prince nursing home with dozens of other elderly residents who have hardly eaten since the earthquake hit on Jan. 12.

A melee erupted at one food distribution point as people broke into the storehouse and fought each other over the bags.

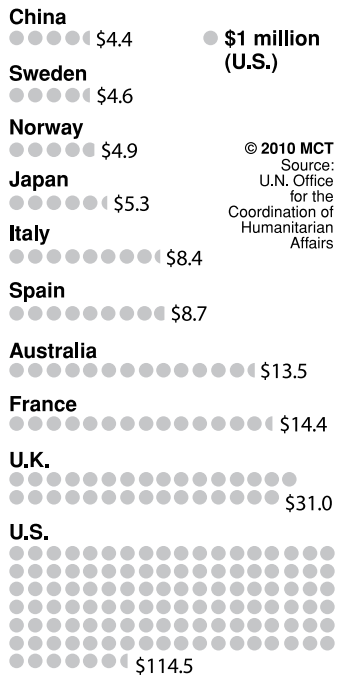
As aftershocks still shook the city, aid workers streamed into Haiti with water, food, drugs, latrines, clothing, trucks, construction equipment, telephones and tons of other supplies. The international Red Cross called it the greatest deployment of emergency responders in its 91-year history.

But the built-in bottlenecks of this desperately poor, underdeveloped nation and the sheer scale of the catastrophe still left many of the hundreds of thousands of victims without help. The U.S. military reported a waiting list of 1,400 international relief flights seeking to land on Port-au-Prince's single runway, where 120 to 140 flights were arriving daily.

"They don't see any food and water coming to them, and they are frustrated," said Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive.

Lending a hand

Top ten countries donating the most money to Haiti:



WORLD BRIEFS

Tijuana floods leave 10 missing; at least 1 dead

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP)—Rains have unleashed heavy flooding in parts of the Mexican border city of Tijuana, killing a 5-year-old girl and leaving at least 10 other people missing, officials said Thursday. Storms also caused a plane to skid off the runway Thursday in the Tijuana International Airport. Nobody was hurt. Four days of storms have swelled the Rio Tijuana, which reaches the United States, sending torrents of water into some neighborhoods of the city across the border from San Diego.

Eels disappearing from London's River Thames

LONDON (AP)—Eels that have been migrating across the Atlantic Ocean to European rivers for hundreds of years are rapidly disappearing from London's River Thames, scientists said Thursday. Conservationists say they're worried that the slithery creatures are not returning to the capital, where they have been most well known in the form of a traditional dish. Jellied eel—stewed eels in a spiced jelly made from the stewing juices—is a cockney specialty from London's East End dating back centuries. Less than 50 European eels were found in eel traps placed the river last year—a 98 percent drop from 1,500 of the fish found in 2005, records at the Zoological Society of London indicated.

Kenya flies radical cleric back to Jamaica

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Kenyan government officials made contradictory statements Thursday about radical Muslim cleric had been flown out of the country after a court ordered them to say why he was being held. The case concerns Jamaican-born Sheik Abdullah el-Faisal, who once led a British mosque attended by convicted terrorists—and served four years in a British jail for inciting murder and stirring racial hatred by urging followers to kill Americans, Hindus and Jews. In 2007, Britain deported him to Jamaica. In 2009, he toured several African countries, until he was arrested last month in Kenya. Prosecutors say el-Faisal was encouraging Kenyan youth to join al-Shabab, an extremist Islamic group in neighboring Somalia.

Maharlika
PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS
Saturday, January 23, 2010

Born in Japan, but ordered out

By BLAINE HARDEN
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TOKYO—Fida Khan, a gangly 14-year-old, told the court that immigration authorities should not deport him and his family merely because his foreign-born parents lacked proper visas when they came to Japan more than 20 years ago.

During the past two decades, his Pakistani father and Filipino mother have held steady jobs, raised children, paid taxes and have never been in trouble with the law.

"I have the right to do my best to become a person who can contribute to this society," Fida told a Tokyo district court in Japanese, the only language he speaks.

But the court ruled last year that Fida has no right to stay in the country where he was born. Unless a higher court or the Minister of Justice intervenes, a deportation order will soon split the Khan family, sending the father, Waqar Khan, back to Pakistan, while dispatching Fida and his sister Fatima, 7, to the Philippines with their mother, Jennette. An appeals court is scheduled to rule on the Khan case in the first week of February.

Aggressive enforcement of Japanese immigration laws has increased in recent years as the country's economy has floundered and the need for cheap foreign labor has fallen.

Nationality in Japan is based on blood and parentage, not place of birth. This island nation was closed to the outside world until the 1850s, when U.S. warships forced it to open up to trade. Wariness of foreigners remains a potent political force, one that politicians dare not ignore, especially when the economy is weak.

As a result, the number of illegal immigrants has been slashed, often by deportation, from 300,000 in 1995 to just 130,000, a minuscule number in comparison to other rich countries. The United States, whose population is 2 1/2 times that of Japan's, has about 90 times as many illegal immigrants (11.6 million).

A deportation court order would split the Khan family, sending the father, Waqar Khan, back to Pakistan, while dispatching son Fida, 14, and his sister Fatima, 7, to the Philippines with their mother, Jennette. The foreign-born parents lacked proper visas when they came to Japan more than 20 years ago.

The Washington Post

Among highly developed countries, Japan also ranks near the bottom in the percentage of legal foreign residents. Just 1.7 percent are foreign or foreign-born, compared with about 12 percent in the United States. Japan held a pivotal election last year and voters tossed out a party that had ruled for nearly 50 years. But the winner, the Democratic Party of Japan, has so far done nothing to alter immigration policy.

That policy, in a country running low on working-age people, is helping to push Japan off a demographic cliff. It already has fewer children and more elderly as a percentage of its population than any country in recorded history. If trends continue, the population of 127 million will shrink by a third in 50 years and by two-thirds in a century. By 2060, Japan will have two retirees for every three workers—a ratio that will strain pension and health-care systems.

These dismal numbers upset Masaki Tsuchiya, who manages a Tokyo welding company that for seven years has employed Waqar Khan.

"If Khan is deported, it will not be possible to find anyone like him, as many Japanese workers have lost their hungriness," said Tsuchiya, who has urged Japanese immigration officials to rescind the deportation order for the Khan family. "When the Japanese population is declining, I believe our society has to think more seriously about immigration."

At the Ministry of Justice, immigration officials say they are simply carrying out rules politicians make. The rules, though, are not particularly precise. They grant wide leeway to bureaucrats to use their own discretion in deciding who stays and who gets deported. Last year, immigration officials granted "special permits" to 8,500 undocumented foreigners, with about 65 percent of them going to those who had married a Japanese citizen.

Exercising their discretion under the law, immigration authorities last year offered Noriko Calderon, 13, the wrenching choice of living with her parents or living in her homeland. The girl, who was born and educated in the Tokyo suburbs, could stay in Japan, the government ruled. But she had to say goodbye to her Filipino mother and father, who were deported after living illegally in Japan for 16 years. Following tearful goodbyes at a Tokyo airport, Noriko remained in Japan with an aunt.

Japan's growing need for working-age immigrants has not gone unnoticed by senior leaders in government and business. Slightly relaxed rules have admitted skilled professionals and guest workers. The number of legal foreign residents reached an all-time high of 2.2 million at the end of 2008, with Chinese accounting for the largest group, followed by Koreans, Brazilians (mostly of Japanese descent) and Filipinos.

Still, experts say these numbers are far too low to head off significant economic contraction. A group of 80 politicians said last year that the country needs 10 million immigrants by 2050. Japan's largest business federation called for 15 million, saying: "We cannot wait any longer to aggressively welcome necessary personnel."

The Khan family's troubles began two years, when a policeman nabbed Waqar Khan on his way home from work. He was detained for nine months. Police in Japan often stop foreign-looking people on the street and ask for residency documents.

The letter of the law was clearly against Khan and his wife. He had overstayed a 15-day tourist visa by 20 years. She came into the country on a forged passport.

But they have refused to sign deportation documents, arguing that although their papers are bad, their behavior as foreigners has been exemplary. Under Japanese law, foreigners are eligible to become naturalized citizens if they have lived in the country for more than five years, have good behavior and are self-sufficient.

The Khans also argue that their children, who regard themselves as Japanese, are assets for Japan. "It is a bit weird that the country needs children, but it is saying to us, go away," Khan said.

The family's lawyer, Gen'ichi Yamaguchi, has tried—and so far failed—to convince immigration officials and judges that the Khans are just the sort of hardworking, Japanese-speaking immigrants that the country should embrace.

"During the bubble years, the number of illegal workers increased a lot and the police looked the other way," Yamaguchi said. "Japan has always looked at immigrants as cheap but disposable labor."

Special correspondent Akiko Yamamoto contributed to this report.

Body of 4th Filipino pulled out of Haiti rubble

By JOCELYN UY
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The military on Thursday said all four soldiers trapped inside the United Nations building in Haiti have been accounted after the body of Sergeant Janice Arocena was recovered Wednesday night.

Lieutenant Colonel Lope Dagoy, head of the Philippine contingent in Haiti, phoned in the sad news, AFP spokesperson Lieutenant Colonel Romeo Brawner Jr. said.

Arocena was on the second floor of the Christopher Hotel working as a clerk at the Central Registry when the 7.0-magnitude quake rocked the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince on January 12.

A peacekeeper of the UN Stabilization Mission based at the hotel, Arocena was the fourth Filipino to have died in the 7.0-magnitude earthquake.

Two other Filipinos—Grace Fabian and Geraldine Lalican—have yet to be accounted for. They were working at the Caribbean Supermarket, which was also flattened by the earthquake.

The remains of Arocena's comrades, Navy Data Processor 3 Pearly Panangui and Army Sgt. Eustacio Bermudez Jr., were retrieved on Tuesday from the rubble of what could be the second floor of the hotel.

Another Filipino, Jerome Yap, an executive assistant at the UN mission, also died in the earthquake. His body was recovered from the hotel wreckage on Monday night.

The three Filipino peacekeepers were working as clerks for various UN offices on the second floor of Christopher Hotel. Brawner said the military would give them a hero's welcome when their bodies arrive most likely next week.

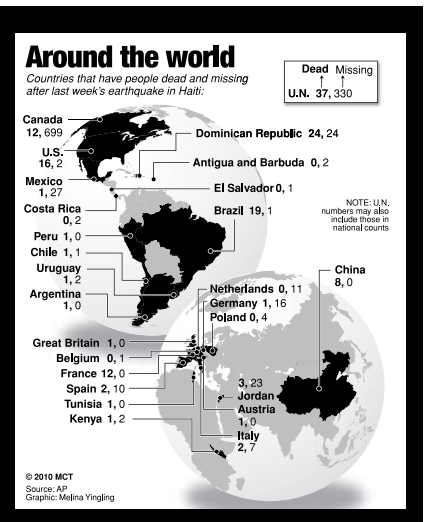
RP troops carry on

Dagoy also reported that US rescue teams had pulled out from the collapsed supermarket where Fabian and Lalican worked, to transfer to other sites where signs of life were more obvious.

But Filipino troops continued to search for Fabian and Lalican, both believed still trapped in the rubble. They were also seeking help from private contractors and asking other rescue teams to lend them heavy rescue machines, according to Dagoy's report.

"The families of these two Filipino workers must not worry because our soldiers there would not abandon them," Brawner said. There are at least 65 Filipinos in Haiti who want to be repatriated to the Philippines, the Department of Foreign Affairs said.

Foreign Undersecretary Esteban Conejos Jr. said he expected the number to increase as many Filipino families in Haiti, particularly in the capital Port-au-Prince, had lost their houses and property.



Ivler's pistol is the same gun in Ebarle slaying

NBI: It was the murder weapon

By NANCY C. CARVAJAL, JEANNETTE ANDRADE
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The pistol found on captured fugitive Jason Ivler on Monday was the same gun used in the Nov. 18 road rage killing of a Malacañang official's son, the National Bureau of Investigation said Thursday.

"It was the murder weapon," Angelito Magno, the chief of the NBI Special Action Unit, told the Inquirer.

According to Magno, a slug recovered from the vehicle of the slain son and namesake of Undersecretary Renato Ebarle Sr. matched test bullets fired from the .45 cal. pistol (serial number MJ59102) seized from Ivler.

Magno said a slug and an empty shell found in the house of Ivler's mother in Blue Ridge subdivision, Quezon City, where the fugitive was arrested by NBI agents during a raid on Monday, also matched the slug recovered from the Ebarle vehicle.

The pistol and an M-16 rifle seized from Ivler—both equipped with silencers—are unlicensed, Magno said in a press conference at the NBI.

At the same press conference, a teary-eyed Ebarle Sr. handed a masked informant half of the P1-million bounty for information leading to Ivler's capture.

British bodyguard

"I never expected to be here. I did not expect to face you all, not as a government official, but as a victim's father," he told reporters.

Ebarle Sr. personally handed P500,000 from the Office of the President to the informant who was wearing a black ski mask. The other half of the reward will be given to the informant after the flag-raising ceremony at the National Capital Region Police Office on Monday.

In an interview, Marlene Aguilar, Ivler's mother, said the informant was her British bodyguard.

"I recognized the informant as Mark Hauser when he was interviewed on TV. He was my bodyguard for more than two years, and he told NBI agents about the possibility of Jason being in the house," Aguilar told reporters.

At the press conference, Ebarle said: "This is providential… Through the help of our law enforcement agencies, we were able to find someone like him that led to the arrest of Jason Aguilar Ivler."

He said it was through the help of the late Press Secretary Cerge Remonde, "who was always there during our darkest time," that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo approved the increase of the reward money to P1 million.

Ebarle also expressed gratitude to the NBI operatives who "continued to look for ways" to capture "the elusive Ivler."

AP

Jason Aguilar Ivler, an American man wanted in the Philippines for allegedly killing a government's official son in a road-rage shooting, is wheeled into an operating room of a government hospital after being critically wounded Monday January 18, 2009 when he opened fire at police officers trying to arrest him at Manila's Quezon city, officials said. Two police agents also were wounded.

Ivler, an American national and a purported Marine, was arrested by NBI agents after a shoot-out in which he was wounded along with two other operatives of the bureau.

No regrets

He was taken to the Quirino Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City, where he underwent surgery for gunshot wounds in the spleen and large intestine.

But he apparently has no regrets.

On Thursday, on her third visit to the hospital after being taken into NBI custody, charged with obstruction of justice, and subsequently released on bail, Aguilar was finally able to talk to her son.

Speaking with reporters later, Aguilar quoted Ivler as saying: "I didn't want to kill any of [the NBI agents]. I wanted them to kill me."

Ivler also told his mother to tell other family members "to get over it."

When asked if Ivler had shown remorse, she said: "Jason does not regret anything that's happened in his life."

Appeal to US Embassy

Ivler remains confined in the intensive care unit where, according to the QMMC head of surgery Dr. Fernando Lopez, he is no longer restrained and is "moving around."

Lopez said the patient's large intestine was already functioning and he had started oral feeding but was still on a generally liquid diet.

He said the patient may be moved out of the ICU as soon as a regular private room becomes available.

Asked to describe the patient's state of mind, Lopez said Ivler was calm.

On Wednesday, Aguilar told reporters that as in the case of US Marine Daniel Smith, who was convicted of raping a Filipino woman, the US government should take custody of her son.

"I would like the US Embassy to take him in their custody because it's their job to protect their citizens, more so my son who fought for his country," the mother said.

Aguilar said the US Embassy had initiated communication and sent papers for Ivler to fill out.

"They want Jason to answer them personally and get the information directly from him," Aguilar said.

"I'm appealing to the US Embassy to protect him from Philippine authorities," she said, adding that she was making the appeal "considering that they treated him like an animal when he was fallen and wounded."

No word from embassy

But Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera said there had been no attempt by the US Embassy to make representations on Ivler's behalf.

She said she expected the US Embassy to let Ivler face a murder trial for the killing of Renato Ebarle Jr. during a traffic altercation on Nov. 18.

"We do not discount the fact that the usual thing that happens is that the embassy always makes representation in behalf of [US citizens who are] incarcerated, but only insofar as their security is concerned. There is no word, no letter, no representation being made by the US Embassy," Devanadera told reporters Thursday.

"They don't meddle in the internal affairs of any country and more so if the offense charged is something that is not connected at all in their work. We've seen that in [the case of] Smith. There is a limited representation that any country can do," she said, referring to the case against rape convict Smith who was eventually acquitted by the appellate court.

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

RP general named commander of UN force in Golan Heights

MANILA, Philippines—A Filipino three-star general will assume command next month of the 1,050-strong UN peacekeeping force in the Golan Heights, a mountainous region in the Middle East which for decades has remained a highly contested territory in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Maj. Gen. Natalio Ecarma III was formally appointed on Monday by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon as force commander and head of mission for the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force in what was once the battleground of the 1967 Six-Day War between Israel and Syria. The unit is composed of troops from Austria, Canada, Croatia, India, Japan and the Philippines, and includes 75 military observers, 39 international staff members, and 105 local civilians. *(Philippine Daily Inquirer)*

Palace honors departing US envoy

MANILA, Philippines—In the last remaining days of her tour of duty in the Philippines, US Ambassador Kristie Kenney was magnanimous in her appreciation for the Filipino people, paying tribute in particular to the late press secretary Cerge Remonde. Kenney paid a farewell visit on President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, and was conferred the Order of Sikatuna with the rank of Datu. "It's been a huge honor for me to be here in the Philippines, every minute of it. I will carry Filipinos in my heart wherever I go," she told journalists after her meeting with Ms Arroyo. Kenney leaves for home on Monday, ending a high-profile, three-year tour of duty that saw her flying to different parts of the country to oversee US aid development programs, meeting with secessionist rebels in Mindanao, personally leading outreach programs, even attending basketball games and guesting in TV shows. *(Philippine Daily Inquirer)*

Soldier, 3 civilians hurt in Laguna drive-by shooting

SAN PEDRO, Laguna—A soldier and three civilians were hurt when two unidentified men on a motorcycle fired shots at a checkpoint of the Commission on Elections in Alaminos, Laguna Thursday, an Army official said Friday. The Army received information that the assailants armed with high-powered guns passed a checkpoint in Barangay (village) San Miguel at around 10:30 a.m. and peppered it with bullets, hitting a certain Private First Class de Guzman, Lieutenant Bartolome Bacarro, commander of the 1st Infantry Battalion, said in a text message. Three bystanders, identified as Arthur Bencito, Emelardo Pelegio and Myriam Espiritu, were also hurt in the shooting. The victims were brought to a hospital in San Pablo City. *(Inquirer Southern Luzon)*

Family massacred in Maguindanao

COTABATO CITY—Unidentified armed men massacred Thursday afternoon a family of three, including a pregnant woman, in Maguindanao, police said Friday. Senior Superintendent Alex Lineses, acting Maguindanao police director, identified the victims as Abdullah Salibak, 40, his five-month pregnant wife Rahima and an unidentified child. The victims sustained multiple gunshot wounds in the body and died instantly. Another relative who was not identified was also wounded and is being treated at a government hospital here. Lineses said the victims were walking on their way home about 5:30 p.m. to Barangay (village) Iganagampong in Datu Unsay town, when gunmen fired at them as they approached Barangay Salbo, Datu Saudi Ampatuan. *(Philippine Daily Inquirer)*

Over 100 kgs of marijuana seized in Isabela farm

MANILA, Philippines—Authorities seized more than 100 kilograms of dried marijuana bricks in a farm in Isabela province Thursday, police said on Friday. Authorities found the 103 kilograms of marijuana bricks stashed inside four cigarette boxes. The boxes were found at the farm lot of the Labarias family situated along the boundary of the villages of Naganacan in Sta. Maria in Isabela and Romualdez, Rizal in Kalinga, said Chief Superintendent Roberto Damian, Cagayan Valley regional director. Authorities discovered that the marijuana bricks were intended to be delivered to a certain Arnel Viernez in Cubao, Quezon City. Police are still tracing the origin of the marijuana bricks and their owners. *(INQUIRER.net)*

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Mom throws 2 kids into river, tries to join them in suicide try

By TINA SANTOS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Desperation could have pushed a woman to drown her two young daughters in Pasig River, and then, to try to take her own life.

Chief Insp. Erwin Margarejo, head of the Manila Police District homicide division, said the incident was only reported Wednesday after the body of one of the two children was fished out of the river.

Jocelyn Abila, 5, of Gate 54, Area C, Parola Compound, Tondo, was discovered at 1:30 p.m. floating near the Del Pan Bridge.

Her elder sister Jovelyn, 8, remained missing, police said.

"Hindi ko na kaya ang mga problema namin sa buhay at ang problema sa bansa. Sobrang hirap na natin (I could no longer bear the problems of our family and that of the country. We are so poor)," the mother, Mimi Velarde Abila, said after police arrested her Wednesday.

Citing witnesses, police said the 40-year-old woman threw her two children into the river at about 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, before jumping in herself.

A scavenger, Nancito Moreno, 19, saw the incident and rescued the woman as she struggled in the water.

"Nakita ko yung nanay kumakawag-kawag dun sa ilog kaya sinagip ko na agad siya. Pero yung dalawang bata hindi ko na nakita (I saw the mother struggling in the river so I immediately rescued her. I never saw the two girls)," Moreno told police.

Abila was accompanied by her husband, Alex, 51, to the police headquarters.

"I know that she is so hard up because we have no money, but I never thought she could do such a thing," Alex told police.

Parricide charges will be filed against the mother, police said, adding that recovery operations were continuing for Jovelyn.

GMA: The next Philippine president is 'lucky'

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo center, with ousted President Joseph Estrada second left, during a prayer before the start of the National Security Council meeting Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2010 at the Malacanang palace in Manila, Philippines. Former presidents are members of the Council and it was Estrada's first time to return to the presidential palace after his ouster in 2001. Others are Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita left, Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile second right and Defense Secretary Norberto Gonzales right.

AP

By LIRA DALANGIN-FERNANDEZ
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—After laying down the groundwork for a robust economy, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo said all her successor to the presidency has to do would be to continue essential programs so that the Filipinos would feel the economic gains.

In an interview aired over dzRH radio Friday, Arroyo said the country's next President was indeed "lucky."

"Swerte ang susunod na Pangulo sa akin [The next president after me will be lucky]," she said.

Boasting of her accomplishments after nine years in office, Arroyo said the peso was stronger, tax reforms were in place, and social services available to most Filipinos.

"Ito lang yata ang administrasyon na lumakas ang piso kaysa humina [This seems to be the only administration where the peso got stronger instead of weaker]," she said.

As the country's top leader, Arroyo said her role was to lay the foundations of the economy.

"Ang papel ko ay ihanda ang pundasyon. . . . Andyan na yan, ang pundasyon ng matatag na ekonomiya at inaasahan natin na itutuloy niya iyon para maramdaman ng mga Pilipino [My role is to lay down the foundation…It's there, the foundation of a strong economy and we expect that this will be felt by the Filipinos]," Arroyo said.

The government, through the Philippine Information Agency, has been on a barrage of information campaign of Arroyo's accomplishments in her nine years in office, including her programs in infrastructure, education, health, and other social services.

Last week, it came up with two-page advertisements in newspapers titled, "Ganito Tayo Noon, Ganito Tayo Ngayon."

RP probes reported US killing of wanted militant

ZAMBOANGA (AFP)—Philippine authorities on Friday said they were investigating reports that one of the country's most wanted Islamic militants may have been killed by a US missile strike in Pakistan.

Abdul Basit Usman was among several people believed killed on January 14 in a US drone attack that targeted Pakistani Taliban leader Hakimullah Mehsud in a remote area of northern Pakistan, according to various media reports.

"If the reports are true then it is good news for us because the killing of Basit Usman means one less terrorist on the street," Lieutenant General Benjamin Dolorfino, military commander in the southwestern Philippines, told AFP.

But he added, "We still have to verify the reports."

Dolorfino said Usman was involved in many deadly bombings in the southern Philippines' Mindanao region, where Muslim insurgents have waged a decades-old separatist rebellion in which more than 150,000 people have died.

The US government has offered $1 million bounty for information leading to Usman's capture, according to its "Rewards for Justice" website.

The website, run by the US State Department, described him as a bomb-making expert with links to the Abu Sayyaf, a Philippines' militant organization blamed for the nation's worst attacks.

It also said he had links to Jemaah Islamiyah, a Southeast Asian Islamic extremist group that is linked to Al-Qaeda and been blamed for major attacks, including the 2002 Bali bombings in Indonesia that killed 202 people.

"US authorities consider Basit to be a threat to US and Filipino citizens and interests. Basit is believed to have orchestrated several bombings that have killed, injured, and maimed many innocent civilians," the website said.

The Philippine military previously said Usman also had links to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the nation's largest Muslim guerrilla group that has led the long-running rebellion in the south.

MILF spokesman Eid Kabalu said it was also looking into the reports Usman had been killed, while reiterating the group's position that it was not involved with him.

"We are trying to verify (those) reports," Kabalu said.

"As far as we know, Usman had links with Jemaah Islamiyah and Al-Qaeda, and could be fighting alongside the Taliban, which has links with Al-Qaeda."

TAKE CHARGE

Easy ways to trick yourself into saving

Editor's Note: This is part of Take Charge of Your Money, a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.

Question: I know I should be saving money for my future, but I never get to do so. It's not because I don't want to. I want to save but can't seem to do it. How can I turn a new leaf this year and save money? I know this will be good for me in the long run.—Glenn

Answer: Being aware of the need to save money for the future is a good start. We all need to set aside money for future needs, especially for the time when we enter retirement and cannot work anymore. Those who have put up a business may continue to enjoy the profits from that business even in old age. But what about those who work by rendering a service to a company as an employee, or to many entities as a professional or consultant? This is just one of the reasons why we need to save.

We also need to have a ready pot of money for those times when a family member gets sick or loses a job, or when calamity strikes and you need to have repairs done to your home, much like what many people realized after typhoons Ondoy and Pepeng flooded many areas of our country in 2009.

Saving for the future consists of two parts: setting aside money and limiting spending to give room for more money to be set aside.

We agree with you that saving is hard to do. It takes discipline to do so. However, that does not mean that it is impossible to do. Take little steps by tricking yourself into saving. Here are some ways you can do it:

1. Open a new bank account for your savings. This should be separate from your payroll account or from your checking account where you draw funds to finance your normal day-to-day expenses. Then as soon as you have a new account, link this up with your payroll account via Internet, mobile and phone banking. The new accounts clerk at your bank can help you with this step.

2. Set up an automatic transfer of funds every pay day from your payroll account to your savings account if your bank has this facility. If not, do the money transfer yourself via Internet, phone or mobile banking. Remember to do this on your pay day so that before you even withdraw any money from your paycheck for your monthly expenses, you have already set aside some money (ideally 10 percent or more) for savings.

3. Open an investment account. This may be a time deposit account or a share in mutual fund or unit investment trust fund or even an account with a stock brokerage. Whenever you have enough money in your savings account, transfer some money to an investment account of your choice so it will have the opportunity to earn more money for you. Bear in mind that some investments come with some risk (example: stocks or equities) so be sure to read and understand all the relevant issuer's or fund information sheet, risk disclaimer and disclosure statement and discuss the particulars of the said investment with the sales intermediary. Do not invest in the investment instrument unless you fully understand and are willing to assume the risks associated with it.

4. At the end of each day, collect all loose change from your wallet and pockets and put them in a piggy bank. This old technique still works. Don't spend this amount; instead, when the piggy bank is full, break it and deposit all the cash in your savings account. You may be surprised that a little money set aside each day can become a big amount come year end.

5. Get all those freebies available. Some stores give rebates or discounts on your next purchase. Keep those coupons and use them on your next store visit. A number of credit cards also offer rewards points for purchases. You may exchange your points for an item you need in the rewards catalog, or opt to use your points to pay for up to half of the purchase price-for a limited time, Citibank has this facility open to cardholders when shopping at stores or eating at restaurants.

6. Annualize small regular expenses. If you are a coffee addict and pick up a cup of java at a coffee shop every working day, multiply your coffee expense by 5 to get the weekly amount, then multiply this by 52 to get the annual amount. This is how much you spend on coffee every year. Then multiply this amount by at least 2 percent (conservative time deposit rate) and see how much you could have saved and earned over the same period if you gave up coffee this way. Those with a cigarette habit may also want to do this. Once you know your annual expense for these items, commit to save this money instead-good for your health and good for your pocket!

7. Pay your bills online or via mobile or phone banking. Save on money for parking, and save on time too. An added plus: chances are you will not be late anymore in paying your bills, thus saving you late payment fees and extra finance charges.

Saving money takes discipline. Keep your eye on your goal and take these little steps to grow your savings.

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Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Lavender and lace

By BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Days before the Big Day on Jan. 17, singer-actress Ciara Sotto was crowding her Twitter account with nerve-wracked posts.

At last she understood what brides since time immemorial inevitably learn: Getting married is serious, stressful business.

She wrote: "Too excited … but also getting frustrated because of all the expenses for just one day!"

Still, last Sunday, Ciara was the portrait of pure bliss when she tied the knot with Jojo Oconer, chief operating officer of Tape and APT Entertainment, producers of "Eat Bulaga."

A few days before, she worried about a downpour because they had planned a garden wedding at the Manila Polo Club.

"I was super stressed. I've always wanted a garden setting. It's actually more practical because you don't have to spruce up the venue that much," she told Inquirer Entertainment.

Fortunately, the skies cleared on the day itself.

She got everything she prayed for and more. "It's worth all the tension. I'm on cloud nine. It's an overwhelming feeling."

For starters, her wedding gown, by friend Mich Dulce, was just as she envisioned it.

"It's vintage, inspired by a Vivienne Westwood dress I saw on the Net. It was worn by the British editor of Harper's Bazaar," she said.

Although people thought she'd traipse down the aisle in a lavender gown, she still donned traditional white. "But the entourage is in violet, my favorite color."

Singer-actress Ciara Sotto

Friends collaborated to make her wedding day extra special. Her hair was done by Celeste Tuviera, her makeup by Lala Flores.

Music was provided by the UST Symphony Orchestra, led by Hermie Ranera, the bride's former teacher at the UST conservatory.

Pastor Bernard Marquez officiated the Christian ceremony.

Of course, Ciara's cousin Sharon Cuneta and her (Sharon's) daughters KC, Frankie and Miel, were part of the entourage.

The bride's parents Tito Sotto and Helen Gamboa, along with Jojo's parents Cecilia and Joe Oconer, led the revelry at the reception, also at the Manila Polo Club that evening.

A day before the ceremony, Ciara wrote in her Twitter space: "Tomorrow … my last name will change." She would later confess that she still wasn't used to the new surname, but that "Mrs. O" had a pleasant ring to it.

Aljur–Kris: Love team or love scheme?

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

"I'll Be Waiting For You" is the final title of the first movie of Aljur Abrenica and Kris Bernal from Regal Entertainment.

Is the Aljur Abrenica-Kris Bernal tandem more of a "love scheme" than a love team? The buzz is that the real girlfriend of Aljur is Rich Asuncion.

What does Kris have to say about this? "Aljur and I never discuss the issue," she says, evading the question. "Although we don't keep secrets from each other. Nasanay na kami na parati may intriga. All I know is that the three of us are friends. We won't let intrigues get in the way."

What did they give each other last Christmas? "He gave me a blouse I liked in Dubai. Nagulat ako na he bought it pala for me. I gave him a bluetooth headphone para di siya mahirapan when we talk on the phone."

Does she feel that the Kimerald (Kim Chui-Gerald Anderson) love team has beaten them in popularity? "Just to be compared to Kimerald is an honor for us. They have their own following and we have ours." The love team business is a many scrambled thing!

Could it be more of coincidence that the latest controversy in Kris Aquino's marriage erupted on the weekend before the airing of the pilot episode of her telenovela, "Kung Tayo'y Magkakalayo"? As a bitchy insider puts it, "Kris is not the Queen of All Media for nothing.

"Timing ang panunugod niya kay Mayen Austria sa pagsimula ng show niya. Pwede nyang i-dialogue kay James ang title ng soap niya."

■■■

When my son IC came home from shooting "Paano Na Kaya?" he exclaimed, "Ma! Ang cute, cute ni Kim Chui. Her driver was absent so she drove herself to the set using the pink bike that Gerald Anderson gave her. Para siyang Barbie doll on a Barbie bike."

■■■

Andrea del Rosario and Gwen Garci are both pregnant. Gwen's beau is an Italian chef and Andrea's, a landed Negrense. Whether marriage is in their agenda or not, the two hot babes will surely make hot mamas!

■■■

Sid Lucero admits he gets intimidated when he does a scene with his cousin, Ryan Eigenmann. "Nauna kasi siya sa akin sa biz," he says. "Idol ko 'yun.

What about making a movie with his dad Mark Gil, an actor nonpareil? "That would be a dream come true. Though for sure, kakabahan ako nang todo sa scene namin."

Does his dad give him acting tips? "He tells me in what scenes I did well and points out in which scenes I could have done better. He goes out of his way to call me about it."

What about love tips? "He reminds me to stay faithful, and always tells my GF na intindihin na lang ako (laughs)."

Is his girlfriend now the last woman in his life? "I never get into a relationship with any girl who is not wife material..."

■■■

A female manager invested time and money to make a male celeb popular. Because of their closeness, the line between personal and professional matters was often debated on by people.

The manager, protective of her ward's image, insist that they are professionally platonic. Yet no matter how many public quarrels they have had, they remained together as one tough team to beat. Until other people influenced her prized ward.

He now refuses to communicate and work with her and even badmouths her, saying how fatally attracted she was to him and calling her a stalker who attempted to go to his house to settle things quietly.

She refuses to say anything bad about him because she doesn't want to destroy her own beautiful creation. Until a leading company told her they were unprofessionally approached by her ward, demanding for a meeting and insisting that they do not inform the clueless manager, who has been working out a good deal all along.

The company declined because they knew who was behind his success. So he teamed up with a group of his co-conspirators, bullying the manager to force her to let go of their professional alliance so he can get all the money and recognition she worked hard for.

Unfortunately for the manager, the only reason she stays behind him is not because she is fatally attracted, but because he owes her a substantial amount of money because of the gambling habit he had a year ago. Hmm ... Talentadong Ingrato?!

TAKE FIVE

Happy to be herself now

By MARINEL CRUZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—"I was just 19 when I married him. I didn't listen when my parents tried to stop me. I didn't know what I was in for," said actress Princess Punzalan of her failed marriage to TV host Willie Revillame.

"I wasn't emotionally ready," Princess, daughter of the late show biz icon Helen Vela, admitted. She is now married to American businessman Jason Field and based in Sta. Monica, Los Angeles, California. "When I married Jason in 2005, I was ready," she said. "I was determined to make it work. I was even willing to give up show biz to be with him."

Princess said she lost touch with her ex-husband when she left the country, but said that she and Willie have remained friends. "There's no animosity between us" she stressed.

She always knew that Willie (currently host of ABS-CBN's top-rating noontime game show "Wowowee") would succeed and become famous, Princess said.

"When I told him that, he simply laughed," she told Inquirer Entertainment. "I remember that moment very clearly. We were at the Megamall parking lot when I had this strong impression in my heart that I had to tell him, 'You'll become so popular that people will listen to whatever you say.' He just said, 'Talaga?' A few years ago, he called to tell me that what I said might already be happening. I told him, 'Just don't forget to always be grateful to God.'"

Princess is on a break from Nursing studies at the Sta. Monica College and is in town. She has appeared on QTV 11 shows "Sweet Life" and "Full-time Moms." She has also agreed to a short stint on the fantasy-drama show, "The Last Prince," on GMA 7.

Q: Why did you choose Nursing instead of a course related to your work here?

A: I also thought of studying

Actress Princess Punzalan

to be a stylist. I enjoy styling hair, experimenting with makeup, making other people beautiful. When I was much younger, I dreamt of becoming a doctor. I was just not willing to study 12 years for it. When I become a nurse, I'll still be caring for others.

Q: When you left for the United States in 2005, what was your plan?

A: I didn't really have a plan. I started acting when I was 9, and when I left, I was nearing 40. It was hard to leave my life here, but one goes where love is. I wanted a quiet life, [although in the first] few months... I was disoriented with the culture.

Q: How did you adjust?

A: My husband said, "You can't stay inside the house forever; you have to go out." The first time I did go out, para akong promdi. I saw snow on the streets and icicles right outside our window and I could only say, "Wow ang ganda!" When we went to the upper peninsula of Michigan, one of the coldest areas in the United States, it was six degrees below zero. I saw the most amazing thing—the beach was frozen. It was breathtaking!

What helped me adjust was a good sense of what's important in life. I was happy and at peace; that's what I really wanted.

Q: Did your being a celebrity here help in any way?

A: The opportunities didn't come because I was a celebrity here. That's one other thing I like about my life there. I am more comfortable dealing with people who don't recognize me. I can be myself, say whatever I want.

Q: You're turning your back on show biz?

A: I love acting, but there's a time and a season for everything. I was in show biz in the 1980s and '90s. Dapat, iba na. What's important to me now is my husband. When I become a nurse, that will be my life. Several friends are egging me to pursue an acting career there, but I'd rather have a normal life now.

Q: How's married life?

A: Masaya. Most of the time, I'm just with Jay. He takes good care of me and is very open-minded. He's a bookworm. I learn a lot from him and we talk about anything. Best of all, whatever the situation, we manage to make each other laugh.

Maharlika – Opinyon

Truth and honesty assassinated

It is, indeed, hunting season. During this campaign period, the worst of Filipinos will again rise to the surface. At a time when a candidate's credentials and vision for the country ought to be the focus of the campaign, it is the opposite that happens. Many political operators and their image doctors are naturally hampered by the baggage of their own candidates and must find ways and means to win nevertheless. The most common option, therefore, is to try to bring down all rivals who are ahead of their candidate clients by highlighting the negatives of these rivals—whether true or not.

A quick look at newspapers and tabloids, and even at the growing email market in the Internet, will show how creativity can be twisted to become depravity with distorted information masquerading as objective opinions snake their way to our computer screens. In commercial advertisements or press releases, the general public anticipates that the best or the good side of the concerned individual or group will be highlighted. But in black propaganda, in order to be effective, bits and pieces of truth are interspersed with half-truths and slanderous comments. There is no such thing as "truth in advertising" guiding those who write to demolish the character and popularity of rivals of their clients, only how best to destroy what is favorable about the targets of their dark minds.

Of course, it is the leading candidates who absorb most of the impact of dirty operations. Just as true is the almost complete neglect of other candidates who do not have a chance to win. In a presidential election like what we will have in May of this year, the leading candidate, Noynoy Aquino, then becomes the target of most of the black propaganda that pollutes our national soul. That he contends against rivals known for their money and power, or the money and power of the Gloria administration, all the more aggravates a situation where demolition jobs begin with traces of truth that are twisted along the way to wall-to-wall lies from a phalanx of guns-for-hire or human beings who derive pleasure from unloading their spite on an innocent public.

It is amazing to see that there are so many who deal with lies as part of their daily lives and still manage to sleep well at night. This state of life is the saddest aspect of Philippine society. It indicates that evil can, indeed, be dominant and is able to exploit the level of ignorance of many Filipinos. The masters of spin and propaganda know that lies, if said often enough, can actually sound like truth. That is why the atmosphere is suddenly full of information that Filipinos had never ever heard before. The capacity of perverted minds to manufacture lies and then distributed as truth indicates that they should have been scriptwriters. But then again, good scriptwriters are able to draw their audience to imagine truth in a make-believe setting while many of guns-for-hire in the Philippines could never produce anything close to professional standards.

There are candidates whose war chest can afford to buy the best and worst of writers. Because they have great amounts of money and attract many for-pay writers and jukeboxes, they are also less discriminating or thrifty—they just pay them all. In the decades that I have been observing presidential campaigns up close, it always amazed me how the richest candidates end up with the dirtiest operators. And I had often thought in my younger days that money sort of pushed the refinement of one's mindset and lifestyle. By now, of course, I know better. Money is simply money. Its vastness is no guarantee of gentility or breeding.

Glimpses

By JOSE MA. MONTELIBANO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

When the Senate came up with the report condemning Manny Villar for the impropriety or crime of personally benefiting from his position and efforts in the C-5 controversy, it marked the second time that the same issue has found national and urgent prominence. By the level of concern, and panic on the ground in certain areas, it seems that the negative impact on Villar's candidacy will require quick and effective responses. So far, the same trite line that the Senate report is politically motivated is about the only statement given so far by Villar's defenders in the Senate. The challenge for Manny Villar is how not to become as vulnerable to the nuance of being a corrupt or dishonest public official who personally took charge in making his companies profit by the power and influence of his office.

In a moment in Philippine history when corruption and the "kawatans" (thieves) of government, especially politicians, have become the top of mind concern of voters, the brand of dishonesty will be a fatal imagery which money cannot just reverse anymore. More and more ordinary Filipinos are now beginning to understand the impact of corruption to their daily lives. Even though most voters carry as a prime concern the availability of regular employment, they are feeling in their gut that the lack of opportunity and jobs is deeply connected to the thievery of public officials.

It will also be spelled out in the weeks and months ahead that a dishonest person cannot be competent because his or her competence can only be used against the people and will be the greatest threat to the country. Our history has shown what dishonest people do, and that they have been able to steal hundreds of billions every year because they were smart and used their competence of rob Filipinos of both our national honor and the services so urgently needed by millions of poor citizens. Sooner more than later, Filipinos will understand that honesty and integrity are the fundamental virtues that can make competence an advantage instead of a way to plunder.

EDITORIAL

Passing the buck

The decision of the ever-more- controversial second division of the Commission on Elections to allow former President Joseph Estrada to run for president again is, in a word, spineless. It is bureaucratic cowardice masquerading as populist philosophy. We share the view of millions of Filipinos that the Constitution—and the Constitution alone—bars Estrada from running for the presidency again. But if the Comelec had allowed the former president, convicted but immediately pardoned of the crime of plunder in 2007, to run on solid legal grounds, we would have respected the reasoning behind the ruling.

Instead, we have this: "In the end, it is the Filipino people who would act as the final arbiter on whether they would have Estrada sit again as president. It is the electorate's choice of who their president should be. The better policy approach is to let the people decide who will be the next president." The basic idea in the second division's decision is said three times, perhaps because, stated baldly, by itself, its thinness as an argument cannot be disguised. But repeated, it sounds almost reasonable.

There is just one problem with it: It undermines the Comelec's own power to screen candidates for the presidency. If it is indeed true, as the division chaired by Commissioner Nicodemo Ferrer asserts, that the "better policy approach is to let the people decide who will be the next president," why did the commission disqualify dozens of aspiring candidates? Set aside, for now, the question of qualifications imposed by the Constitution itself: Assuming that all aspirants who had filed certificates of candidacy met the basic qualifications, why allow only 10 to run if the "better policy approach" is to let the electorate decide?

The second division's main justification for allowing Estrada to run again, therefore, does not justify anything. It merely passes the responsibility for deciding on Estrada's qualification, under cover of a populist let-the-people-decide argument, to the Supreme Court.

But we also share the common view that it is in fact one of the Comelec's most crucial responsibilities to screen presidential (and other) candidates. To follow the Estrada doctrine-in-the-making of letting the people decide on strictly legal or constitutional matters involving election cases is to weaken yet another political institution. We need the Comelec to qualify all candidates. That includes former presidents too.

The second division's main argument for allowing Estrada to run again, therefore, represents an abdication on the part of the Comelec of its mandated responsibility to qualify all candidates for elective office. Whether because of Estrada's celebrity, or because of the uniqueness of the case, or because the Comelec had earlier been embarrassed by reversals by the Supreme Court, the second division essentially followed the time-hallowed bureaucratic practice of passing the buck.

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Impunity

The question is, "Why?" I do not just mean this in the sense of patent motivations. The people who massacred—never has that word resonated more grimly—Toto Mangudadatu's followers on their way to the provincial capitol to file his candidacy obviously did it to prevent him from filing his candidacy. Completely literally, by physically removing the people who were going to do the filing.

I mean "why" in the sense of why they imagined this thing could possibly just blow by after some time. I mean "why" in the sense of why they imagined they could possibly survive the fallout from it. I mean "why" in the sense of how they could possibly have contemplated it at all.

Common sense must tell you that if you wreak havoc of this scale, you wreak havoc on yourself as well, inviting as you do the visitation of the furies. And havoc doesn't begin to describe what happened. As of this writing, the death toll has risen to 52. These are numbers you normally see only during disasters, or war. Storms, however, do not rape women. Floods do not mutilate men. Earthquakes do not decapitate people. Those were the things that happened to the group that tried to make their way to the capitol.

There's The Rub

By CONRADO DE QUIROS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Most of the dead were journalists. According to our correspondent in the area, Aquiles Zonio, among the 58 persons in the group, 37 were so. Some 25 of them died there, the biggest casualty of journalists in a single act of mayhem in the world. Zonio himself would have been among the dead, except that he and a couple of others went back for some stuff in their hotel. The killing of the journalists was clearly no accident. Several men on motorcycles were asking the hotel manager after them.

Just as clearly, the military and police were in on it. Zonio recalls that Toto Mangudadatu had begged Chief Supt. Paisal Umpa, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao police regional director, to provide an escort, but was turned down. He begged the Army commander in the province to do the same, but was turned down as well. When the danger was clear and present, his opponent having repeatedly vowed mayhem on him if he went on to contest the governor's seat. For all intents and purposes, the group had been served up to the cutthroats on a silver platter.

Most mind-bogglingly of all, the author of this monstrosity never bothered to hide his hand. Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan, who ran unopposed in 2007, had made his wishes clear: He meant to continue to run unopposed forever. He had made his wishes clear specifically to Mangudadatu, punctuating his earnestness by graphic descriptions of the consequences that awaited him if he did not heed it. He had done so openly, publicly, repeatedly. And as if to prove that he was a man of his word—like a medieval warlord or modern-day Mafia don, who thought his position would weaken if he could not back it up with deeds—the massacre happened. Suspect, hell, his signature is written all over it.

Common sense must tell you that if you wreak havoc of this scale, you wreak havoc on yourself as well. But that is common sense for the rest of the world, that is not common sense for that part of the world. For the rest of the world, mounting a massacre of that depth and savagery, conscripting the police and military into it, and doing so to make a statement—it's not even daring the world to do something about it, presuming as that does a sense of consequence—is beyond contemplation. In that part of the world, it is, if not entirely par for the course, just pushing the envelope on balance of terror.

That is the heart of "impunity," a concept we normally associate with wantonness, whim and mindlessness. It is nothing of the kind. It is tunnel vision in ways that (to us at least) adds whole new meanings to the word "tunnel." It is narrowness to a point of blindness. In Ampatuan's reckoning, the equation is simple. He gets rid of a rival, he puts fear in the hearts of future rivals, and he will always be protected by Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. It's not that nothing else matters, it's that nothing else exists.

The truly mind-boggling thing about the massacre is not that it happened, it is that it was contemplated at all. The truly chilling thing about the massacre is not that it left decapitated bodies, it was that it points to decapitated minds.

In the end, you truly have to gape in awe at the price we've had to pay for keeping GMA all these years. The problem in Maguindanao was there long before her, but not to a point where we are looking not just at a different culture, not just at a different country, not just even at a different planet but at a different plane of existence. It's a perversion of every truth we hold to be self-evident, not the least of them that the vote is sacred, the public will is sacred, life is sacred. It is perversion so systematic it carries with it its own violent logic: the vote is meaningless, the public's will is the warlord's will, life is puny. There is method in that madness, and there is madness in that method.

In the rest of the world, common sense dictates that you do not reward the murderers by giving them more power with a state of emergency. Common sense dictates that you replace the military and police officials there wholesale, that you send combat troops to disarm (and shoot them if they resist) Ampatuan's private army, that you drag Ampatuan in chains to Manila, under heavy guard by PMA cadets, to make sure his escorts are still incorruptible. Hell, common sense dictates that you throw out GMA, knowing that so long as she is there, no harm will happen to Ampatuan. So long as she is there, no good will happen to this country. So long as she is there, so long will be unleashed that logic from hell called:

Impunity.

Maharlika – Samu't Sari

CONTEST WINNERS

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Marianas High School students Rozette Bunao and Asher Crisostimo show their artwork after bagging the first prize in the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council's poster making contest on Thursday. From left, WPRFMC's CNMI onsite coordinator Jack T. Ogumoro, Bunao, Crisostimo, MHS art teacher Wesley Foester, and MHS counselor Cherlyn Cabrera.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Second-place winner Elsa Camacho, second from left, of Marianas High School shows her entry in the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council's poster making contest on Thursday. From left, WPRFMC's CNMI onsite coordinator Jack T. Ogumoro, Camacho, MHS art teacher Wesley Foester, and MHS counselor Cherlyn Cabrera.

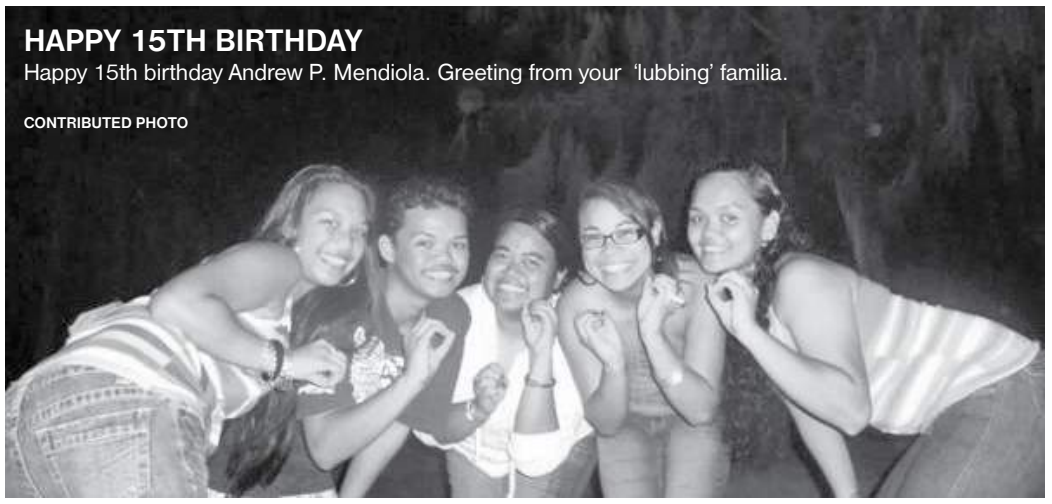
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Third place winner Jesmyn Sablan, second from left, of Marianas High School shows her artwork for the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council's poster making contest. From left, the council's CNMI onsite coordinator, Jack T. Ogumoro, Sablan, MHS art teacher Wesley Foster, and MHS counselor Cherlyn Cabrera.

HAPPY 15TH BIRTHDAY

Happy 15th birthday Andrew P. Mendiola. Greeting from your 'lubbing' familia.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



FIRST BIRTHDAY

Maria Sophia Marcelo-Gomez celebrated her first birthday with a Snow White-themed party last Jan. 10 at the Raraina Restaurant of Aqua Resort Club.

Baby Sophia with Grandma.

Baby Sophia with proud parents Erwin and Lisa Gomez.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Baby Sophia and Mama Lisa with friends.

Baby Sophia joins Mama Lisa in posing with other children that attended the Snow White-themed birthday party.

YoungStyle

Too much electronics? The parents' new frontier

By LIZA MUNDY
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Fatima Nascone, a mother of four, thought she had done a good job limiting the proliferation of electronic devices in her household. There was a time when the household TV was on for meals, but she'd put a stop to that. Her two older sons, 7 and 8, had Nintendo DS hand-held devices, but she restricted their use to half an hour a day on weekends. And nobody was allowed to surf the Internet unsupervised.

But this summer she realized that there was one device she wasn't monitoring: The TV in the family car. Letting the brood watch TV as she drove them to and from school was, she confesses, a way to "have peace and quiet." So one day she and her husband, Jason, sat the kids down and told them: "It's not going to happen anymore. We're going to have conversations." The TV is now mostly reserved for road trips.

For her, as for so many parents, it was one step in a ceaseless effort to control her kids' consumption of electronic media—not end it entirely, but simply reduce it to a reasonable level.

According to a study released this week by the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, it's a task that is becoming increasingly hard for parents: Children from 8 to 18 spend 7.5 hours a day engaged with some type of media, up from 6.5 five years ago. And thanks to the wonders of multitasking—the ability to watch TV while listening to their iPods, say, or e-mail while watching YouTube—into that period of time they actually manage to pack almost 11 hours of screen time. The upshot is that on average, children spend more time each week consuming media—about 53 hours—than their parents spend at work.

"Use of every type of media has increased over the past 10 years," with the exception of print reading, which has decreased, the study notes, pointing out that children who are heavy media users tend to have worse grades and be less content. The study also found that parents who put the brakes on screen time have an impact: "Children whose parents make an effort to limit media use—through the media environment they create in the home and the rules they set—spend less time with media than their peers."

This presents quite a challenge: Many parents want their children to have some Internet facility, so the question becomes where to draw the line. "I spend my entire day in front of a screen," says Michael Agger, who writes about online media for Slate and is the father of a 4-year-old boy who has started to play games on dad's iPhone. "Part of me thinks, well, it can't hurt to be computer literate, since he will be manipulating one of these things for the rest of his life." On the other hand, says Agger, "I'm also one of those tiresome reading snobs."

For the most part, parents realize they can't ban media devices entirely, even if they want to: "This is here to stay: We have to deal with it, so how do you regulate it?" says Sue Clark, of Silver Spring, Md., whose son, Patrick, was born in 1994. "... We're living in an entirely different world, and as parents, we're making it up as we go along."

For her part, making it up has meant that the rules have changed as her son, now 15, has grown older: When he was in elementary school, she had a no-TV-on-school-nights-unless-it's-the-Olympics rule, and she also refused to buy videogame consoles. "But now this stuff oozes through everywhere." Patrick can play videogames on his cellphone and watch TV shows on his iPod. Like many parents, Clark recognizes the benefits of technology: Her son is a dedicated musician who plays drums, guitar, bass and saxophone, and there are lots of Internet resources to help him hone his skills. The question is, how much is too much? "How much time is appropriate for him to sit there and watch guitar videos? I don't know. Is that educational? Is it preventing him from getting enough exercise?"

Overall, Clark has found that the best approach is mutual limit-setting, where mother and son negotiated an agreement. Beginning in high school, for example, she let Patrick have a cellphone (without an Internet connection), but she made him pay for the monthly plan. For the most part, it has been working fine, though he does have problems with kids who text him constantly. "These are powerful tools in the hands of kids," whose impulse control might not be fully developed, Clark says. "Here they have these extraordinarily powerful tools that we don't really know how to make use of. That's a lot of responsibility for them."

There are other things parents can do, according to Patricia Cancellier, the education coordinator for the Parent Encouragement Program in Kensington, Md. For example, she says, computers and televisions should be in the "public space of the home and not in bedrooms," and whatever parental controls are available should be used. "You don't want to 100 percent cut out" all time on the Internet or Facebook, but you do want to restrict it. Cellphones can be turned off at certain hours so a child is not constantly reachable; the parent can retain the right to look at e-mails and texts, and delete those contacts in particular from someone the child does not know. "If you present the problem as, `It's strangers having constant access to you, and here's how we might solve that,' kids are a little more likely to go along with it."

Then there is the tricky question of what kind of an example parents themselves set. Lots of parents have jobs that involve a great deal of screen time, not to mention BlackBerrys and other smart phones. "I'm cognizant that I'm probably setting a bad example for the kids in some regard," says Jeff Steele, who with his wife, Maria Sokurashvili, administers the parenting Web site D.C. Urban Moms and Dads.

Try this!

© 2009 MCT
Source: Weekly Reader
Graphic: Paul Trap

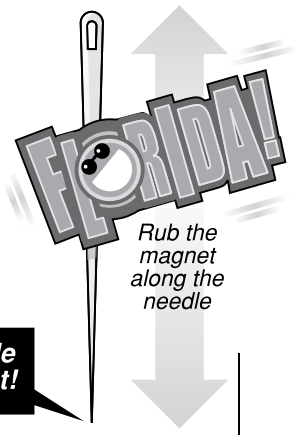
A needle that knows where north is

Here's how to make a very simple compass and a little more complicated one:

You'll need

- Sewing needle
- Thin thread
- Strong magnet (such as one made to stick to a refrigerator)
- Scissors
- Wax paper
- Marker
- Bowl of water
- Adult helper

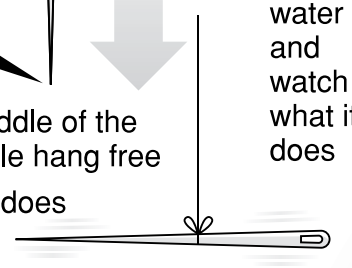
1 Hold the "eye" end of the needle (the dull end) and stroke the magnet from one end of the needle to the other 15 times

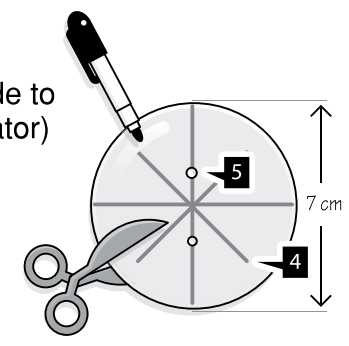


Be careful – the needle has a very sharp point!

2 Tie the thread to the middle of the needle and let the needle hang free

Watch what the needle does





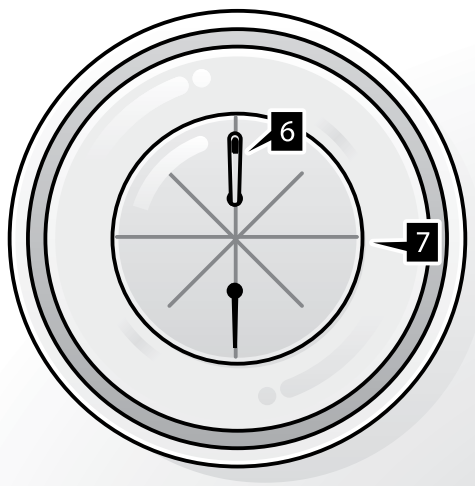
3 Cut out a circle of wax paper, about 7 centimeters (3 inches) across

4 Draw lines on it like this

5 Make little holes with the needle in these two places

6 Untie the string from the needle, and stick the needle into the holes in the wax paper

7 Float the wax paper on the water and watch what it does



8 Pick up the bowl of water with the paper and needle floating in it and walk slowly around the house; watch what the needle does

What happened?

The needle becomes "magnetized"

The center of the Earth is made of iron, and the whole planet acts like a huge magnet

Your needle magnet can feel those forces and lines itself up with one end pointing toward the North Pole and the other toward the South Pole

McGwire cheated himself and baseball

By FRED BOWEN
Special to The Washington Post

*Bowen is the author of sports books for kids including "*Winners Take All,*" about cheating in baseball.*

I remember the day as if it were yesterday. It was the fall of 1998. I was sitting in the stands watching my son and two teams of 14-year-olds play a baseball game. The small aluminum bleachers around the local high school field were filled with parents and kids.

One father who was late for the game rushed up to the stands. He breathlessly announced to everyone, "McGwire just hit another one!"

Immediately, everyone at the game began to talk excitedly. That summer, Mark McGwire of the St. Louis Cardinals and Sammy Sosa of the Chicago Cubs had electrified sports fans everywhere with their race for the single-season home run record. McGwire ended that season with 70 home runs, breaking the previous record of 61, set by Roger Maris in 1961.

I thought of that afternoon when McGwire admitted last week that he had taken steroids during long periods of his baseball career, including that record-breaking season. Steroids are substances that can make athletes stronger and able to hit the ball farther. But steroids are also dangerous and against the rules. McGwire clearly cheated when he took steroids. I am glad that McGwire finally told the truth. It must be hard to live with a lie that big. McGwire also told his son, his parents and even Maris's widow that he cheated. That must have been really hard.

But now baseball fans have questions:

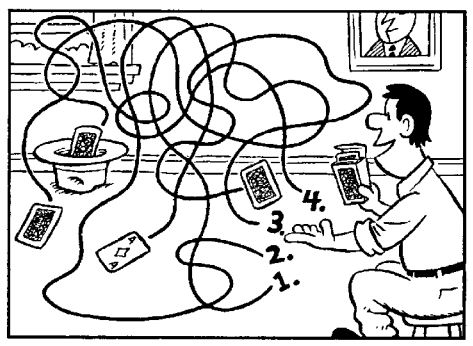
- Should McGwire be allowed in the Hall of Fame?
- Should his 583 career home runs or 70 home runs in 1998 stay in the record books?
- Would McGwire's teams have made it to the playoffs and the World Series if he hadn't used steroids?

Sports fans love to watch two evenly matched teams in a close game when they are battling hard and fair. It's fun to root for your favorite team in a game like that. Later, it's fun to remember the great games and players and talk about them with our family and friends.

But what fun is it to remember a player or team that breaks the rules? Why would anyone care about a cheater?

So now when I think back on that sunny fall afternoon when everyone was talking about McGwire and baseball, I am sad.

I realize that McGwire did not just take steroids, he took a great sports memory.



THE OLD "CARDS IN THE HAT" GAME! Can you guess which toss got the first card in the hat?

Answer: It was toss number 1.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

Illustrated by David Coulson

CARS OLD AND NEW!

G	R	E	B	N	E	S	E	U	D	B	R	D	C	Y
N	E	G	A	W	S	K	L	O	V	M	E	A	F	E
R	E	K	A	B	E	D	U	T	S	W	L	I	O	L
E	L	I	B	O	M	S	D	L	O	L	S	M	R	S
T	E	L	O	R	V	E	H	C	I	U	Y	L	D	S
A	T	O	Y	O	T	S	E	D	E	C	R	E	M	O
L	I	N	C	O	L	N	A	D	N	O	H	R	D	R
N	E	O	R	T	I	C	D	R	A	K	C	A	P	C

Hidden in the diagram above are the names of 17 famous makes of automobiles from today and yesterday. They can be found by reading up or down, or side to side. You'll even find them diagonally going up or down. Letters can be used more than once. Listed below are the cars that you're looking for.

BMW	HONDA
CADILLAC	LINCOLN
CHEVROLET	MERCEDES
CHRYSLER	OLDSMOBILE
CITROEN	PACKARD
CROSSLEY	STUDEBAKER
DAIMLER	TOYOTA
DUESENBERG	VOLKSWAGEN
FORD	

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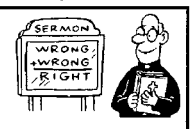
TWO WRONGS DO MAKE A RIGHT when it comes to AlphaMath. See if you can replace the letters to the right with the digits 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 so that you will have a correct addition problem. The same letters get the same digits.



Our answer: 25938 + 25938 = 51876 (W=2, R=5, O=9, N=3, G=8, I=1, H=7, T=6.)

A "ROCK STAR" PROBLEM! Below are two puzzle grids for you to fill in. Hints are given for each word. The words in Grid B contain the same letters as the corresponding words in Grid A.

1. Color or flavor.
2. Garden tools.
3. To distribute cards.
4. Properly in place.

GRID A

	M	
	E	
	A	
	T	

GRID B

	L	
	O	
	A	
	F	

1. Unit of length.
2. A type of horn.
3. To show the way.
4. Separate with a sieve.

Answers: 1. Lime-mile. 2. Hoes-shoe. 3. Deal-lead. 4. Fits-sitt.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was American political scientist, economist, psychologist and professor Herbert Simon who made the following sage observation: "What information consumes is rather obvious: It consumes the attention of its recipients. Hence a wealth of information creates a poverty of attention, and a need to allocate that attention efficiently among the overabundance of information sources that might consume it."

■ Those who study such things claim that the act of licking a stamp burns one-tenth of a calorie.

■ The shortest song in the world is "You Suffer," recorded in 1986 by the British band Napalm Death. It lasts precisely 1.316 seconds.

■ Stanley Mason was an inventor who really got around, in a manner of speaking. In addition to coming up with the idea for the granola bar, he also created the squeezable ketchup bottle, the disposable diaper, heated pizza boxes and the dental floss dispenser.

■ There are more Polish people living in Chicago than in any city on Earth except for Warsaw, Poland's capital.

■ You might be surprised to learn that the most dangerous profession in the country—in terms of the percentage of people holding that profession who have been killed—isn't firefighter or police officer, it's president of the United States. A total of 9 percent of our presidents have been assassinated.

■ Studiers of statistics say that in any random group of 23 people, the chances that at least two of them share a birthday is more than 50 percent.

■ In the Commonwealth of Virginia, a statute contained within what's known as the Code of 1930 prohibits bribery or corruption by anyone other than a political candidate.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "I think the biggest mistake most people make when they pick their first job is they don't worry enough about whether they'll love the work, and they worry more about whether it's good experience."—Steve Ballmer

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MAGIC MAZE ● EXPLORED FOR SPAIN

F	T	R	I	C	C	U	P	S	E	V	P	M	K	N
I	F	D	P	A	B	Y	O	W	U	S	Q	O	M	O
K	I	F	E	R	N	R	D	C	A	B	Z	N	N	E
X	Q	D	R	R	R	I	W	U	O	S	Q	A	O	L
N	U	L	E	A	J	H	P	R	B	R	I	L	F	E
D	I	C	Z	S	A	Y	E	S	L	L	T	L	W	D
V	M	I	T	C	O	R	O	N	A	D	O	E	S	E
Q	P	P	N	O	R	T	L	G	B	L	K	G	Z	C
I	E	L	L	E	R	U	O	M	H	F	A	A	E	N
C	R	S	U	B	M	U	L	O	C	B	Z	M	Y	O
W	V	G	U	S	R	Q	P	N	M	L	J	I	H	P

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Balboa	Cortez	Magellan	Pizarro
Carrasco	De Soto	Malaspina	Ponce de Leon
Columbus	Galiano	Mourelle	Quimper
Coronado	Guerrero	Pérez	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	÷		+		13
+		+		÷	
	÷		x		12
÷		÷		+	
	x		–		6
5		1		10	

1 3 4 5 6 6 7 8 9

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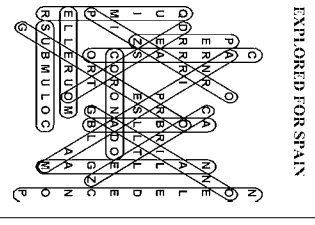
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

13	6	+	1	÷	7
+	÷		+		+
12	6	x	4	÷	8
	+		÷		÷
6	9	–	5	x	3
	10		1		5

Shepherd wants food all to herself

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: We have two dogs: a German shepherd, Brutus, whom we've had since he was a puppy, and a Belgian shepherd, Sheeba, whom we adopted from a shelter. Both dogs have their own set of dishes for water and food. The problem is that Sheeba guards both food dishes and won't let Brutus eat. We have to call Brutus over, and even then, it looks like he is sneaking to eat his own food.

We know Sheeba came from a breeder who had many dogs, which is why she probably had to hoard her own food. I think that habit was brought over, but I don't know how to break it. Any advice?—Irena H.

DEAR IRENA: Your hunch about Sheeba may be right. In an environment where she had to compete with many dogs, she intimidated other dogs in order to get her share. She's clearly taken the dominant role over Brutus in the household.

It also sounds like she does obey your commands to come away from the food. This is a good thing, because you can work with Sheeba to train her that guarding the food is not a desirable action.

Many experts recommend that you start this training by feeding Sheeba separately from Brutus—either at a different time, or in a different place. Keep the training positive—the goal is to help her relax and see the feeding area as a safe place.

The first few times, place her empty food dish in front of her. After she's investigated it, approach the dish (from Sheeba's side, not directly at her) with a scoop of food. Speak soothingly and encouragingly the entire time. Whenever Sheeba demonstrates a desirable action—staying relaxed, not getting tense or guarding food from you—place a small treat in the food dish.

When she is completely comfortable eating with humans nearby, gradually bring Brutus back into the mix, with the same scenario: positive reinforcement only, treats only when she stays relaxed. This may take awhile, so be patient and careful, especially when introducing your second dog.

■ ■ ■

Send your pet questions to Sam Mazzotta at ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. And find more pet resources at PawsCorner.com.

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Dive into an octopus lunch surprise

Turn a ho-hum Saturday meal into a memorable family activity when you dive into this "Octopus Lunch Surprise" recipe. With a few simple ingredients that kids love, your imaginations can soar when everyone creates an underwater scene right on their plates.

Make a shopping list, pick up what you need together, and you'll soon be on your way to playing with your food kid style!

Here are the ingredients you'll need for four servings:

■ 4 standard-size hot dogs
■ 6 ounces spinach fettuccine, cooked according to package directions (substitute shell-shaped pasta, if you prefer)
■ 4 slices of bread
■ 4 slices of cheese or cheese spread
■ Cookie cutters in fish or star shapes
■ 2 whole cloves or raisins
■ Several cocktail-size sausages such as Hillshire Farm Beef Lit'l Smokies (optional)

Here's the fun:

For each "octopus," slice a hot dog down the center lengthwise, leaving approximately 1 1/2 inches at one end of the hot dog intact. The uncut end will be the head of the "octopus." Hand your child a pair of clean and easy-to-handle scissors. Let him cut each of the halves in half lengthwise, then in half again. Be careful to keep the strips attached to the solid top portion of the hot dog. You will now have eight arms. Cut a few arms in the small cocktail-sized wieners, if you wish.

An adult should place the hot dogs in a pan of boiling water. Watch how the "octopus" arms immediately curl as the hot dog heats through and the casing tightens. Carefully remove from the pan and set each one with the head upright and legs dangling outward on top of a mound of hot and buttered spinach pasta (the seaweed). For eyes, insert 2 whole cloves or raisins next to each other into the top portion.

Set a small sausage or two (to represent squid) along the side of the plate, chasing after the octopus.

Serve with toast that has been cut into sea-themed shapes with cookie cutters. Top with cheese spread or cheese slices cut into the same shapes.

Extra learning fun: Watch a short, popular video on your computer showing the recent discovery of octopuses manipulating discarded coconut shells and using them for protective shelter. View it and read more interesting information about octopuses with your family at www.nationalgeographic.com. Search the site with these keywords: "octopus" and "coconut shell."

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Life & Style

Former Sen. John Edwards admits the child is his

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—Confirming what practically everyone already suspected, John Edwards confessed Thursday he fathered the baby born to his ex-mistress—an admission that came just ahead of a bombshell book by a top aide to the former Democratic presidential candidate.

Edwards had long denied the girl, Frances Quinn Hunter, was his, even after he admitted cheating on his wife with the child's mother, Rielle Hunter. Hunter had been hired before Edwards' 2008 White House campaign to shoot behind-the-scenes video of him.

"I am Quinn's father," the 56-year-old former North Carolina senator said in a statement. "It was wrong for me ever to deny she was my daughter and hopefully one day, when she understands, she will forgive me."

The confession came ahead of the Feb. 2 release of a book by former Edwards aide Andrew Young that is expected to describe how Edwards worked to hide his paternity with Young's help.

Shortly before the 2008 presidential primaries began, Young stepped forward to claim that he—not Edwards—was the child's father. But there were suspicions at the time that the fiercely loyal aide was taking the fall for his boss.

Young said in an excerpt of an ABC interview released Thursday that Edwards asked him to arrange a fake paternity test.

"Get a doctor to fake the DNA results," Young quoted the candidate as saying. "And he asked me ... to steal a diaper from the baby so he could secretly do a DNA test to find out if this (was) indeed his child."

AP

In this March 10, 2009 file photo, former presidential candidate John Edwards answers a student's question after delivering a speech at Brown University in Providence, R.I.

The scandal may not be over: Federal prosecutors in North Carolina are investigating Edwards' campaign finances, apparently with regard to Hunter, whose video production firm was paid at least $100,000 in 2006 alone. Edwards' political career lies in ruins. And a question mark hangs over his personal life.

Edwards' wife, Elizabeth, who has been battling an incurable return of cancer, said that the "whole family is relieved" by the admission and that she hopes it will put an end to the news stories. "My marriage shouldn't be on anybody's radar screen except mine," she said.

She declined to discuss the couple's marital status or what would happen next for them, saying: "If somebody has a crystal ball, they can let me know."

Hunter's lawyer, Michael Critchley, said the admission is "good for everyone."

In his statement, Edwards said of his daughter: "I will do everything in my power to provide her with the love and support she deserves. I have been able to spend time with her during the past year and trust that future efforts to show her the love and affection she deserves can be done privately and in peace."

He added: "I have been providing financial support for Quinn and have reached an agreement with her mother to continue providing support in the future. To all those I have disappointed and hurt, these words will never be enough, but I am truly sorry."

Edwards, who was also the 2004 Democratic vice-presidential candidate, was out of the country Thursday, traveling to Haiti to help in the aftermath of the earthquake.

The child was conceived in mid-2007, while Edwards was running for the White House, and around the time he was renewing his vows after 30 years of marriage.

Edwards initially denied that he had an affair with Hunter after the National Enquirer reported the liaison in October 2007. Later, months after he had dropped out of the race for the White House in January 2008, he admitted to the affair but declared that he could not possibly be the father of Hunter's child, who was born on Feb. 27, 2008.

NBC: Conan O'Brien reaches $45M exit deal

NEW YORK (AP)—If it wasn't already official enough by airtime Thursday, "Tonight Show" host Conan O'Brien left no doubt that he is leaving.

He did it, of course, with jokes.

In his monologue, he apologized to the guests he had scheduled for next week, including President Barack Obama, the Queen of England and "our good friend, Elvis Presley."

O'Brien

He confided that his separation from the network meant "NBC dropped off all my CDs and picked up its lava lamp."

And he shared some unusual terms of the agreement, including his returning "the Etch-A-Sketch my contract was written on," and that, "Effective today, NBC will stop paying for (announcer) Andy Richter's medical marijuana."

But seriously, folks: With Thursday's show, O'Brien was just one day away from bidding NBC good riddance in a $45 million deal for his exit from "The Tonight Show," while leaving his immediate future in television a question mark.

The contentious two-week battle that would allow NBC to unseat O'Brien (and move Jay Leno back to the program he hosted for 17 years) came less than eight months after O'Brien took the "Tonight" throne from Leno.

Under the deal, O'Brien will get more than $33 million, NBC said. The rest will go to his 200-strong staff in severance.

What happens next for O'Brien?

"We don't know," said his manager, Gavin Polone. "While we have had expressions of interest, we have not had any substantive conversations with anybody."

Ideally, said Polone, O'Brien "wants to get back on the air, doing the show he's doing now, as soon as possible."

There has been much speculation on where that might be. ABC (which airs "Nightline" and "Jimmy Kimmel Live!") has said it wasn't interested, while Fox, which lacks a network late-night show, expressed appreciation for his show—but nothing more. Comedy Central has also been mentioned as a future home.

Meanwhile, O'Brien might conceivably conduct off-camera business with his soon-to-be-ex-bosses.

Prince William meets Australian wildfire survivors

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—A somber Prince William met Thursday with emotional survivors of last year's deadly wildfires in southern Australia, doling out comforting words and occasional kisses to those who turned up to greet him.

The 27-year-old prince's trip to Victoria state, on the last day of his Australia tour, came two weeks shy of the first anniversary of the fiery disaster that has become known as Black Saturday, when hundreds of blazes raced across huge parts of the state, killing 173 people and destroying more than 2,000 homes.

William was clearly moved by the experience, speaking later at a reception in Melbourne about the impact it had on him.

"Today on the outskirts of Melbourne, I was privileged to see the spirit of Australia in its purest, most magnificent form," he said. "The stories of suffering I have heard today inevitably made me think about the ongoing tragedy of Haiti. Our thoughts and prayers remain with everyone there."

Earlier, the prince wore a yellow ribbon to honor those affected by the fires and greeted locals at a relief center in the close-knit community of Whittlesea, which has served as a hub for survivors who once lived in the devastated surrounding towns.

There, the second in line to the British throne quizzed Victorian Premier John Brumby about the fires, and looked through a book of photos showing the damage from the blazes.

"It's terrifying what it can do, isn't it?" he said.

Debbie Morrow told the prince about losing her home. He asked about her family, who now live in a caravan and shed.

"He was very concerned and wanted to know if we would be rebuilding," she said.

AP

Britain's Prince William, right, meets the French family, parents Colin and Michelle and their children Darcy and Vanessa, who were affected by last year's wildfires, at Kinglake West, north of Melbourne, Australia, Thursday, Jan. 21, 2010.

Wife says Polanski is 'marvelous' husband

PARIS (AP)—Film director Roman Polanski's wife said she "understands perfectly" that women have been shocked by the 32-year-old sex case revived by her husband's sudden arrest in Switzerland.

But she added in an interview with Elle magazine appearing Friday that in the 1970s, when the crime occurred, society viewed sex and drugs in a different light.

"My personal truth is that Roman is a marvelous husband and man," said actress Emmanuelle Seigner, 43. "He is an impeccable man and I have nothing to reproach him for."

The 76-year-old Polanski, who has two young children, is fighting extradition to the United States. The director was initially accused of raping a 13-year-old girl after plying her with champagne and a Quaalude pill during a 1977 modeling shoot. He pleaded guilty to unlawful sexual intercourse, then fled to France on the eve of sentencing in 1978.

"My husband never believed he was above the law. The proof is that he pleaded guilty...," she said.

Polanski was arrested in Switzerland on his way to a film festival in September. He was jailed for more than 60 days before being placed under house arrest Dec. 4 in Gstaad, Switzerland.

The woman who was the child victim at the time, Samantha Geimer, is supporting a motion by Polanski's lawyers urging that the director be sentenced to time served then—42 days in a California prison for psychiatric evaluation.

Geimer's attorney, Lawrence Silver, faxed that position to other lawyers Wednesday, asking that Polanski be sentenced in absentia.

The director's wife said the 1970s were a "crazy time."

"The relationship to drugs wasn't the same, the relationship to sexual liberty and permissiveness neither," she said. "Today, public opinion has considerably evolved on the subjects."

Seigner described her personal horror after her husband's arrest.

She said she has had the impression of "falling into a well like Alice in Alice in Wonderland," and that each day the fall has been "slow and regular ... and this long fall won't stop."

Switzerland has not yet decided whether to honor the extradition request.

Prosecutors say they contacted Polanski victim

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Prosecutors are disputing claims by the victim in Roman Polanski's sex case that they failed to tell her of their effort to extradite the film director.

In court documents filed Thursday, the Los Angeles County district attorney's office denies allegations that it violated state law by not informing Samantha Geimer of its intentions to bring back Polanski so he can be sentenced.

Prosecutors say they invited Geimer and her attorney to discuss the case, but the meetings never occurred.

Geimer's attorney, Lawrence Silver, has joined the defense's bid to have Polanski sentenced in absentia. A hearing is set for Friday.

The director is under house arrest as Swiss authorities weigh whether to extradite him to the United States. Polanski pleaded guilty to having sex with Geimer when she was 13.

His attorneys are seeking a sentence of time served, a request that Geimer supports.

Beyonce, Madonna join telethon; DiCaprio gives $1M

NEW YORK (AP)—Beyonce and Madonna have been added as performers to Friday's multi-network "Hope for Haiti Now" telethon, and Denzel Washington, Brad Pitt, Leonardo DiCaprio and former President Bill Clinton are among the participants.

A statement released Thursday said Beyonce would perform from London, and Madonna from New York City. The list of musical performers already includes such heavyweights as Bruce Springsteen, Alicia Keys, Stevie Wonder, Taylor Swift, Justin Timberlake and Keith Urban.

An estimated 200,000 people were killed after a powerful earthquake struck Haiti last week, devastating the nation.

The two-hour telethon will be shown on all the major networks and a host of other channels. It will be broadcast from New York, London, Los Angeles and Haiti.

People can begin donating even before the start of the 8 p.m. EST concert via phone and text. Viewers can also download musical performances from the show via iTunes for 99 cents. Those profits will also be donated to Haiti relief.

Also Thursday, DiCaprio announced he was donating $1 million to the Clinton-Bush Haiti Fund, the relief effort led by former Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush and one of the organizations benefiting from the telethon.

AP

Actor Leonardo DiCaprio, left, and Israeli model Bar Refaeli sit courtside as they attend the NBA basketball game between the Orlando Magic and Los Angeles Lakers at the Staples center in Los Angeles on Monday, Jan. 18, 2010. The Lakers won 98-92.

Mischa Barton sued over $7,000-a-month NYC rent

AP

In this Oct. 19, 2009 file photo, actress Mischa Barton attends the 2009 Whitney Museum of American Art gala and studio party in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Mischa Barton's landlord says the actress is refusing to pay rent on her $7,000-a-month apartment in New York City.

Landlord M.R.A. Realties Inc. says in a lawsuit that Barton rebuffed efforts to collect the last three months' worth of rent on her flat in the trendy Tribeca neighborhood.

Barton's representatives had no immediate response. The landlord wants Barton to pay the rent and legal fees.

The 23-year-old Barton also lives in Los Angeles. The lawsuit filed Thursday says her one-year lease on the Manhattan apartment began in September.

At the time, she was in "The Beautiful Life," a CW series about the New York modeling world. The show was canceled in September.

Barton rose to fame playing Marissa Cooper on Fox's teen drama "The O.C."

Rihanna to perform 'Stranded' in Haiti telethon

OSLO (AP)—Rihanna says she will perform a new song called "Stranded" with rapper Jay-Z and U2's The Edge and Bono at Friday's "Hope for Haiti" telethon in London.

During the taping of a Norwegian talk show in Oslo on Thursday, the R&B superstar said she feels drawn to the cause because of Haiti's proximity to her home country of Barbados.

"In the Caribbean, we think of ourselves as one big family, one country," Rihanna told the host of the show, Fredrik Skavlan. "We're all together. We all represent each other."

She said she felt "great sadness" when thinking about the humanitarian disaster that struck Haiti following a Jan. 12 earthquake.

"It's like it happened to Barbados," she said.

"Hope For Haiti Now: A Global Benefit for Earthquake Relief" will be an international event. Haitian native Wyclef Jean will anchor the show from New York, while George Clooney will do so from Los Angeles. Coldplay is also to perform from London.

The funds raised from the benefit will be donated to several relief organizations, including UNICEF, Oxfam America and Partners in Health.

AP

Riahanna and Los Angeles Dodgers Matt Kemp watch the Cleveland Cavaliers defeat the Los Angeles Clippers 102-101 in an NBA basketball game on Saturday, Jan. 16, 2010, in Los Angeles.

Kitty Kelley bio on Winfrey coming in April

NEW YORK (AP)—An Oprah tell-all is coming in April, but Winfrey isn't the teller.

Crown Publishers announced Thursday that Kitty Kelley's 544-page, unauthorized "Oprah: A Biography" will be released April 13. The first printing will be at least 500,000 copies.

Kelley is known for gossipy, unflattering, but best-selling celebrity books. She has also written about Frank Sinatra, Nancy Reagan and the Bush family.

Kelley says she has high regard for Winfrey, but also felt committed to writing the truth. Kelley says she devoted the past three years to examining Winfrey's life. She says she came away "full of admiration for her accomplishments and fascinated by her complexity."

Crown says Kelley conducted 850 interviews for the book.

Crown Publishing Group is owned by Bertelsmann AG.

In this book cover image released by Crown Publishing, Kitty Kelley, author od "Oprah: A Biography," is shown.

AP

Chatty churchgoers disrupt sanctuary's air of reverence

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: Last Sunday, I attended a church service, and the woman and her adult daughter seated behind me would not shut their mouths. All I could hear was the two of them catching up on the week's gossip. The 5-year-old granddaughter also talked the whole time.

I scooted as far over in the pew as possible to avoid hearing the conversation.

I go to church for peace, quiet and reflection, and it's frustrating to hear constant chatter. I'm glad they come to church, but I wish their idea of "fellowship" extended beyond visiting with each other.

Would it be rude to turn around and ask these people to be quiet?

PRAYING FOR SILENCE, MOUNT VERNON, OHIO

DEAR PRAYING: No. How else will they know they're creating a distraction? This happens in other venues besides church, and by that I'm referring to movie theaters and theaters where actors are performing. It's not only rude and thoughtless, but can be infuriating.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am dating a guy, "Ryan," I like very much. He invites me to his family's house for dinner often, and this is where the problem lies.

I eat everything his mom cooks for us and I thank her for it, but she constantly tries to get me to eat more. It has reached the point where she flat-out tells me, "You need to eat more of my food. You didn't have a large enough serving." Even though I am already full, I wind up stuffing myself because I feel guilty, and then I'm uncomfortable.

I don't want to eat there anymore to avoid overeating or making Ryan's mom feel bad. However, I know it means a lot to him that I go. How should I handle her constant badgering? -

STUFFED IN TENNESSEE

DEAR STUFFED: Ryan's mother may be well-meaning, but a polite hostess does not pressure a guest in her home the way she does. Have a private chat with Ryan. Tell him plainly how uncomfortable his mother's badgering makes you feel. If he can't put a stop to it, the next time his mother gives you a hard time, try this: Tell her you are stuffed and ask if you can please take home a doggie bag because her cooking is so delicious.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I was poking around your Web site recently, and while looking through the archives I read your columns featuring names for people in various professions like the urologist named Dr. Leake and the dentist named Dr. Payne.

I have a suggestion for a fun sequel: How about a list of appropriate car models for different professions—real or made up? I'll offer a few: The president of American Express driving a Dodge Charger, or an airline pilot driving a Honda Pilot, and—of course—the proctologist who travels everywhere in his Ford Probe.

I'll bet your readers can come up with a bunch.

JAMES H., LAKEWOOD, WASH.

DEAR JAMES H.: I'm sure they're up to the challenge. Allow me to suggest a few: The tailor driving a Dodge Dart, the estate planner behind the wheel of his Subaru Legacy and, of course, Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr in their matching Volkswagen Beatles.

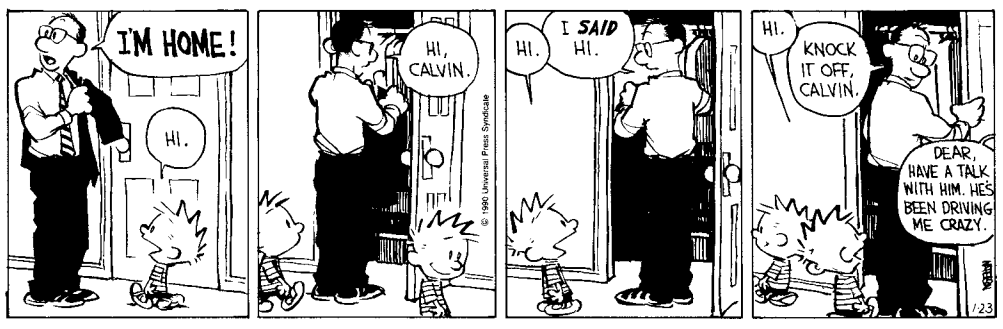
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby – Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

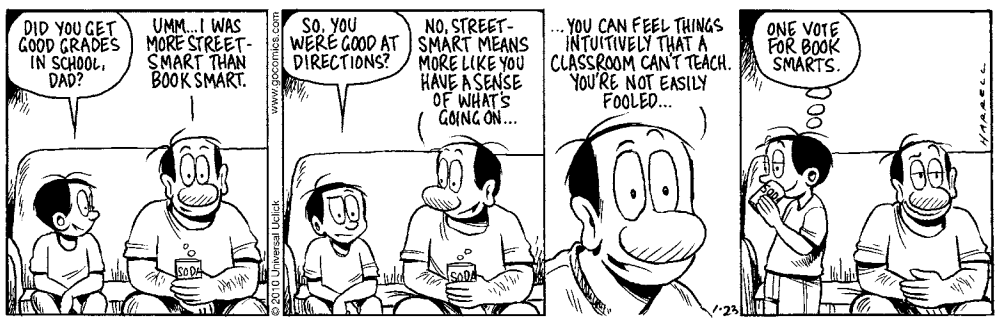


Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


DID YOU GET GOOD GRADES IN SCHOOL, DAD?
UMM... I WAS MORE STREET-SMART THAN BOOK SMART.
SODA
© 2010 Universal Uclick
www.gocomics.com
SO, YOU WERE GOOD AT DIRECTIONS?
NO, STREET-SMART MEANS MORE LIKE YOU HAVE A SENSE OF WHAT'S GOING ON...
...YOU CAN FEEL THINGS INTUITIVELY THAT A CLASSROOM CAN'T TEACH. YOU'RE NOT EASILY FOOLED...
1-23
ONE VOTE FOR BOOK SMARTS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

Here's your Speeding Ticket and Court Summons.
1-23
You Bone Head! Why'd you have to speed so far from home?! It'll take us an hour to drive here for your court date!!
© 2010 Glenn McCoy/dist. by Universal Uclick
I can make it in twenty minutes.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

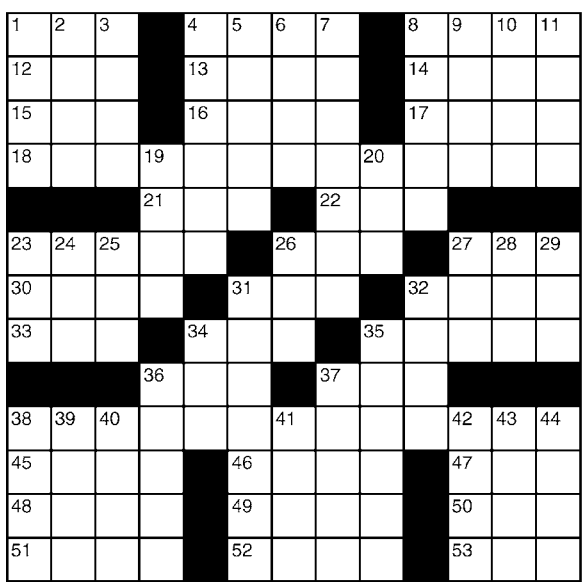
ACROSS
1 "Chicago" lyricist
4 "The Sultan of Swat"
8 Supplements, with "out"
12 Additionally
13 Pennsylvania port
14 Greek vowel
15 Artesian appellation
16 Mountain goat
17 Extravagant allure
18 Ginormous
21 Raggedy —
22 Roscoe
23 Appears to be
26 Plaything
27 Melody
30 Radio part
31 Garfield's owner
32 Missile shelter
33 Longing
34 Jewel
35 Harness racing carriage
36 Occupation, for short
37 Expert
38 What happy party-goers had
45 Competes
46 Seethe
47 Coquettish
48 Concept
49 Pound of poetry
50 Inseparable
51 Farmer's place
52 Ogler's look
53 Silent assent

DOWN
1 Sicilian spouter
2 Greets the villain
3 Stage flop
4 Holds the scepter
5 City-related
6 Haberdasher's rackful
7 Honeycomb cell, e.g.
8 Rink figure
9 Caffeine-rich nut
10 Catchall abbr.
11 Unaltered
19 Pentameter component, often
20 Path
23 Firmament
24 Away from WSW
25 A billion years
26 Clancy or Hanks
27 Have a bug
28 Sort
29 Trigger's rider
31 Immoral woman
32 Tallow source
34 Hodges of baseball lore
35 Graduated
36 — metabolism
37 Blazing
38 Eager, plus
39 Broad
40 Cad
41 Leak slowly
42 PC picture
43 Stereo alternative
44 Kept tabs on

Solution time: 27 mins.

H	A	M	■	S	P	A	■	G	R	A	S	S
A	L	A	■	H	O	T	■	R	A	T	I	O
V	E	T	■	O	N	E	L	I	N	E	R	S
O	P	T	■	O	D	I	U	M	■	■	■	■
C	H	E	Z	■	E	N	S	■	B	A	B	E
■	■	■	O	U	R	■	T	W	O	B	I	T
O	W	E	N	S	■	■	A	R	E	N	A	■
T	H	R	E	E	D	■	D	N	A	■	■	■
T	O	A	D	■	U	S	A	■	X	M	A	S
■	■	■	A	L	A	M	O	■	A	R	T	■
F	O	U	R	F	L	U	S	H	■	C	O	O
C	A	T	E	R	■	D	O	M	■	A	M	P
C	R	E	D	O	■	I	N	S	■	W	A	S

Yesterday's answer 1-23



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tiffani Thiessen, 36; Mariska Hargitay, 46; Gail O'Grady, 47; Richard Dean Anderson, 60

Happy Birthday: Don't let anyone limit you this year when so much depends on taking action and following through. Emotional issues may leave you questioning but you must continue down whatever path you have chosen. Stand by your beliefs and convictions and you will not have regrets. Love is in the stars and an interesting development will lead to a happier and brighter future. Your numbers are 5, 11, 18, 24, 30, 34, 42

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): It's important to keep busy. Get involved in challenging activities that will make you think. Speak from the heart. Showing your true feelings will benefit you. Romance is in the stars so plan something special for the evening hours. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You can persuade others to pitch in and help you achieve your goals. Investigate activities in your community that can enable you to make new friends or professional contacts. Don't let a mishap cause a rift between you and someone you care about. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You may be upset with someone but, if you are smart, you will avoid getting angry. Offer kindness and generosity. Your ability to handle emotional situations with grace will impress someone you will want to get to know better. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Get involved in groups or with someone who complements your skills. Making some changes to your home or even a move will lift your spirits. Express your dreams, hopes and wishes to someone to whom you are drawn. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't take on too much. You will have trouble dealing with emotional issues. Consider your situation and take a serious step toward handling some of your relationships better. Don't let your personal and professional lives interfere with one another. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Get whatever you have to say out in the open. The more you discuss what's going on and what you want to see happen, the more likely you are to get your way. Travel and socializing will lead to a new interest or new friends. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Do whatever you can to please the people you love the most. A creative spin to an interest you have will make it that much more fun. Don't get emotional over financial concerns that you cannot change but do budget efficiently. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't let things get to you. Being overindulgent or overreacting to situations will not help matters. Take a back seat for now and avoid anyone looking for a fight. Put your time, money and effort into something creative. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Mellow out a little. Try to be more accommodating and you will have a much better chance getting your way. Someone who's personally interested in you may cause emotional stress. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Your focus should be on home and family and how you can make things better. You have plenty to contend with so don't jeopardize what's important to you by taking care of someone else's problem. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't let someone from your past meddle in your life or your current relationship. Emotional turmoil is apparent if you try to hide the truth. Make sure you protect the person who is loyal and always there for you. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): A chance to try something new or to get involved in a project that interests you is likely if you attend events where you can mingle with people who have similar goals. A serious partnership can develop if you are honest and offer an equal split. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are dedicated, determined and diligent. You are compassionate, generous and a good friend.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	6							
1		7			8			
	8	2	7			3		
		9		3			1	
			8	1	4			
	5			2		6		
		4			2	9	8	
			6			2		1
							3	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 1/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	4	5	8	7	1	3	2	9
1	2	7	3	9	5	8	6	4
3	8	9	2	4	6	1	7	5
4	1	8	6	5	7	9	3	2
7	3	2	9	8	4	6	5	1
9	5	6	1	2	3	7	4	8
2	6	3	5	1	8	4	9	7
8	9	4	7	6	2	5	1	3
5	7	1	4	3	9	2	8	6

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 1/22

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BALSAM USES **Solution: 9 letters**

R	I	N	E	V	U	O	S	L	A	C	O	L	I	S
E	B	A	A	S	T	C	U	D	O	R	P	L	R	C
T	G	A	R	L	A	N	D	N	A	P	P	E	R	E
T	L	O	O	S	E	B	A	L	S	A	M	M	U	N
E	N	L	M	S	C	S	(F)	R	E	S	H	S	O	T
L	L	A	A	E	A	R	A	(I)	G	G	U	R	P	N
S	N	A	T	C	M	U	E	D	(R)	A	F	T	T	O
W	R	E	H	I	E	O	T	E	S	B	R	T	O	M
E	E	E	E	N	O	D	R	H	N	W	T	F	P	R
N	T	N	R	D	I	N	A	I	E	E	A	I	M	E
A	N	U	A	O	L	N	A	M	E	N	D	G	P	V
T	I	R	P	O	S	E	U	L	D	S	T	E	I	S
U	W	P	Y	W	O	L	S	C	O	N	E	I	T	N
R	E	L	L	I	F	S	P	E	C	I	A	L	C	O
E	H	A	R	V	E	S	T	A	M	T	O	H	H	W

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Aromatherapy, Authentic, Bags, Cone, Draft, Filler, Fir, Fragrant, Fresh, Garland, Gift, Handmade, Harvest, Hot mat, Inhale, Local, Loose Balsam, Memories, Name, Napper, National, Nature, Needles, Newsletter, Pitch, Potpourri, Products, Prune, Rug, Sachet, Scent, Screened, Slow, Smell, Snow, Souvenir, Special, Swag, Tips, Vermont, Winter, Wood

Yesterday's Answer: Sour Cream

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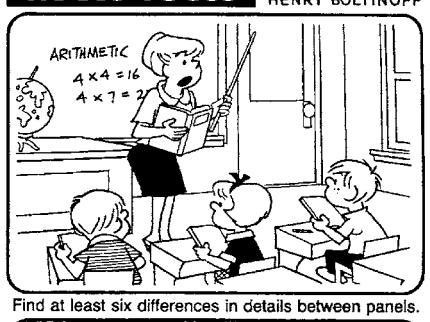
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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Differences: 1. Math problem is different. 2. Pencil is missing. 3. Girl's book has writing. 4. Country missing on globe. 5. Skirt is longer. 6. Door window is shorter.

Wishing Well®

4	6	7	3	4	6	8	7	3	2	5	7	3
B	S	P	B	E	U	E	E	E	N	Y	R	C
8	6	8	7	4	6	4	7	3	7	5	6	3
M	D	O	S	B	D	O	O	H	N	O	E	E
6	7	8	7	5	7	8	7	8	5	7	6	7
N	A	T	L	U	M	I	A	O	H	G	T	N
2	6	5	6	3	2	5	4	2	4	6	8	7
O	R	A	A	E	R	V	L	A	D	N	N	E
3	6	7	2	6	7	3	5	6	7	5	7	5
R	S	T	I	F	I	F	E	E	S	O	M	P
8	5	7	8	5	8	7	8	5	3	8	5	6
S	T	I	R	I	U	N	N	O	U	H	N	R
7	5	7	8	7	3	7	8	7	8	7	2	7
C	S	R	I	E	L	A	G	S	H	E	N	S

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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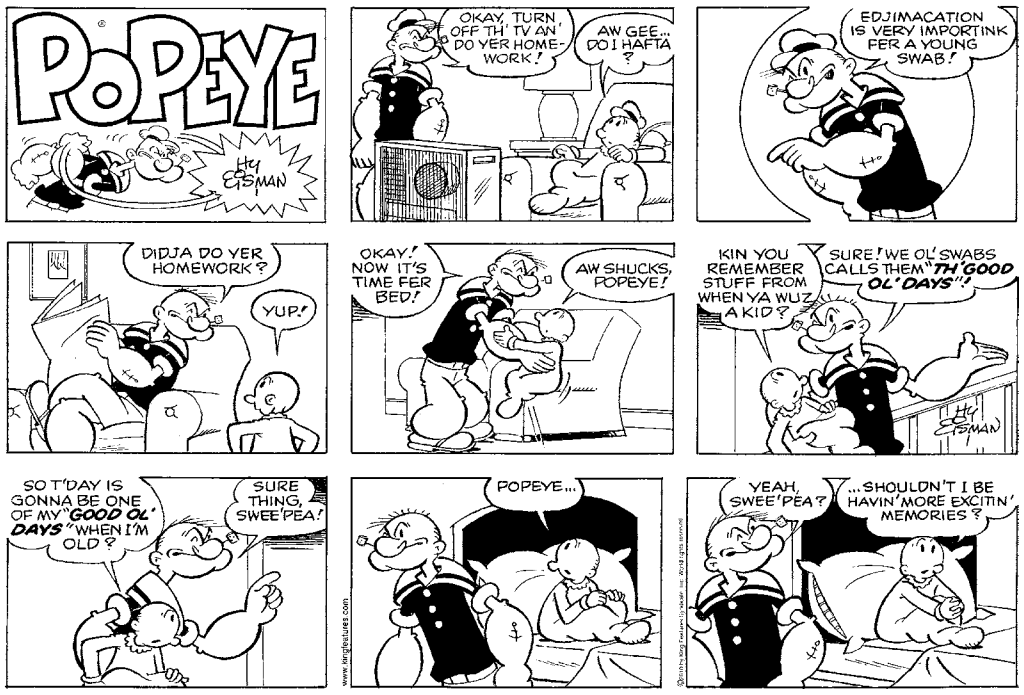
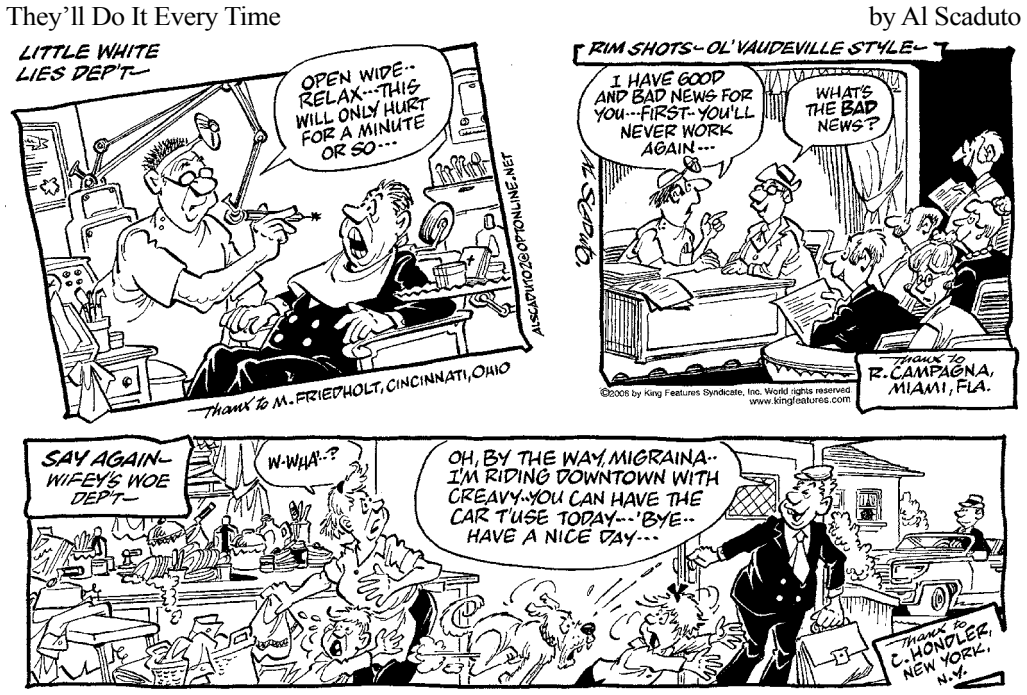

POPEYE
HY EISMAN
OKAY, TURN OFF TH' TV AN' DO YER HOMEWORK!
AW GEE... DO I HAFTA?
EDJIMACATION IS VERY IMPORTINK FER A YOUNG SWAB!
DIDJA DO YER HOMEWORK?
YUP!
OKAY! NOW IT'S TIME FER BED!
AW SHUCKS, POPEYE!
KIN YOU REMEMBER STUFF FROM WHEN YA WUZ A KID?
SURE! WE OL' SWABS CALLS THEM "TH' GOOD OL' DAYS"!
SO T'DAY IS GONNA BE ONE OF MY "GOOD OL' DAYS" WHEN I'M OLD?
SURE THING, SWEE'PEA!
POPEYE...
YEAH, SWEE'PEA?
...SHOULDN'T I BE HAVIN' MORE EXCITIN' MEMORIES?

They'll Do It Every Time — by Al Scaduto


LITTLE WHITE LIES DEP'T—
OPEN WIDE-- RELAX---THIS WILL ONLY HURT FOR A MINUTE OR SO---
Thank to M. FRIEDHOLT, CINCINNATI, OHIO
RIM SHOTS—OL' VAUDEVILLE STYLE—
I HAVE GOOD AND BAD NEWS FOR YOU---FIRST--YOU'LL NEVER WORK AGAIN---
WHAT'S THE BAD NEWS?
Thank to R. CAMPAGNA, MIAMI, FLA.
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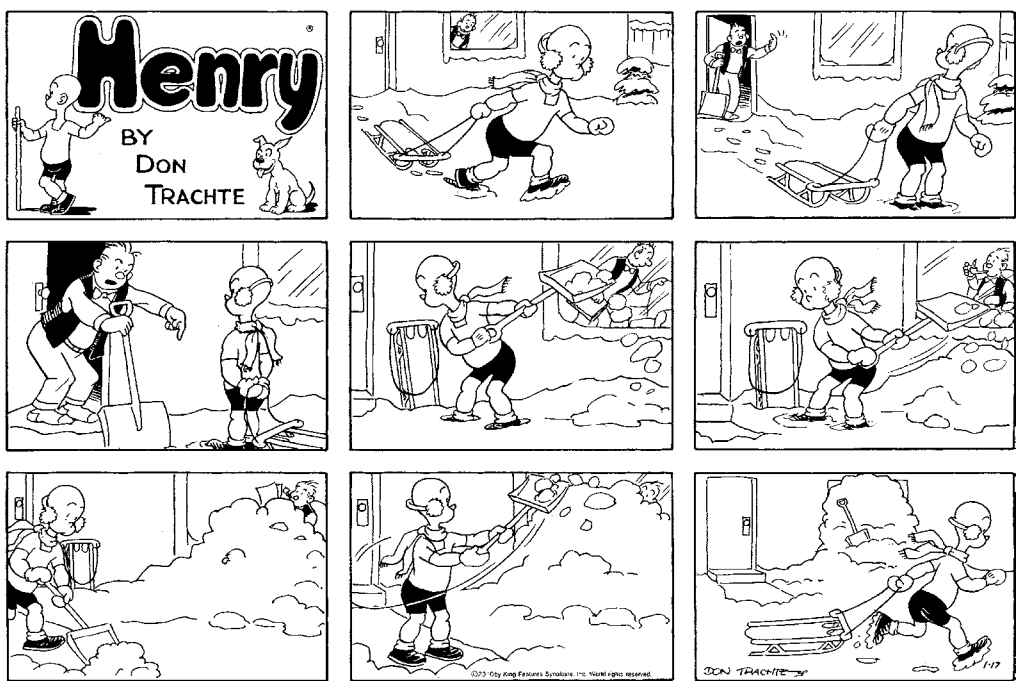
SAY AGAIN— WIFEY'S WOE DEP'T—
W-WHA'--?
OH, BY THE WAY, MIGRAINA-- I'M RIDING DOWNTOWN WITH CREAVY--YOU CAN HAVE THE CAR T'USE TODAY---'BYE-- HAVE A NICE DAY---
Thank to C. HONDLER, NEW YORK, N.Y.

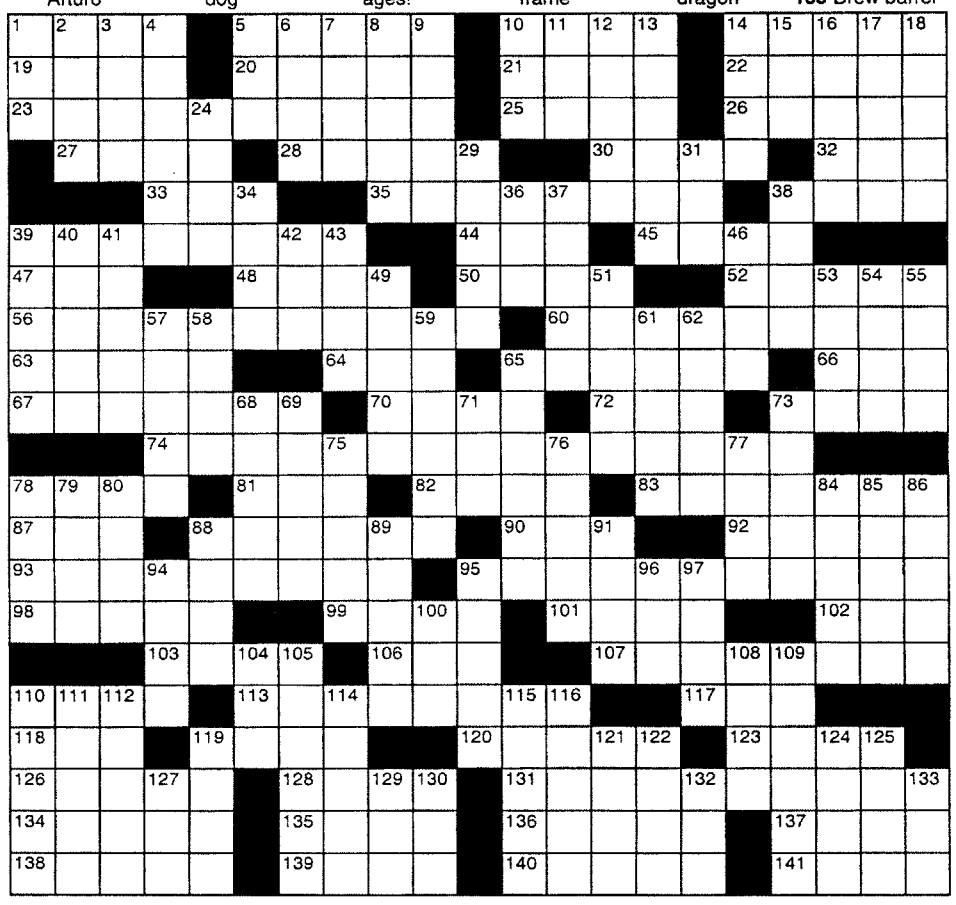


Super Crossword

LETTER PERFECT

ACROSS
1 Exercise target
5 Actuate
10 Boston —
14 Denzel Washington film
19 Kansas city
20 — incognita
21 Comfort
22 "Middle-march" author
23 Butcher-shop buy
25 Modern Mesopotamia
26 Numerical word form
27 Theater collection
28 Director Michael
30 Satyric trait
32 Vim
33 Bond rating
35 Neapolitan song
38 Work over?
39 Tarnish
44 PBS benefactor
45 Mrs. Nick Charles
47 ABA member
48 Shipshape
50 Standard
52 Court cry
56 Start of a Nash verse
60 Maestro Arturo
63 Opening remark?
64 To and —
65 Rang
66 Rapper Tone —
67 Rained and snowed
70 Kruger of "High Noon"
72 "— vous plait"
73 To boot
74 Bach favorite
78 Hostage
81 New Deal agcy.
82 — May Oliver
83 Most enthusiastic
87 Diminutive suffix
88 Make minestrone
90 Say please
92 Actress Zellweger
93 Connecticut county
95 It's a guy thing
98 Perplexed
99 WWII site
101 Kenwood competitor
102 Glowing
103 No, to Nureyev
106 Asian soldier
107 Haphazard
110 Disney dog
113 George Peppard series
117 Korf or Sara
118 What a feller needs
119 Keeping
120 Give in to gravity
123 Walked
126 Diacritical mark
128 Author Ambler
131 Famed disc jockey
134 Irving's "The — New Hampshire"
135 Amneris' rival
136 Messy Madison
137 European country
138 High-tech missives
139 Expensive
140 Uses a trepan
141 TV's "Ding — School"

DOWN
1 Trim
2 Sampras strokes
3 Soap additive
4 Chicken little?
5 "— been ages!"
6 "Simple Simon — . . ."
7 Type of sch.
8 Thalia's sister
9 Albert and Victoria
10 Mile High Center architect
11 Boathouse item
12 Sacred song
13 Costume sparkler
14 Kid
15 Castilian cry
16 Hefty herbivore
17 Short messages
18 Stick 'em in your ear
24 Actor Morales
29 Singer Summer
31 — Canals
34 Composer Thomas
36 August one?
37 Big revolver?
38 Holstein's home
39 Rome's — of Caracalla
40 Lucy's landlady
41 Marker
42 "Aladdin" frame
43 Grapefruit serving
46 Way
49 Deck of destiny
51 Dewy
53 Pickling herb
54 Baseball's Slaughter
55 Puerto —
57 City on the Allegheny
58 Reply to the Little Red Hen
59 One who no's best?
61 Smug smile
62 "The Color Purple" character
65 Kirsch kin
68 Sgt. Bilko
69 Campus digs
71 Designer Lapidus
73 Bronte's "— Grey"
75 Tom, Dick, and Harry
76 Skater Cohen
77 Franco of "Camelot"
78 Cougar
79 Landed
80 Gets hitched
84 "— Gay"
85 Big rigs
86 Choppers
88 Deal with a dragon
89 Newsboy's shout
91 Kamm or Kristofferson
94 Contradict
95 Harnessed the oxen
96 Bird of prey
97 Abbreviated address
100 Sodom escapee
104 JFK abbr.
105 Fine fiber
108 Compassion
109 Moved like 116 Down
110 Woodworking tool
111 Postulate
112 Nile feature
114 Mysterious
115 Iron clothes?
116 Animal that roared?
119 Convent cubicle
121 Namu or Willy
122 Bloomsbury buggy
124 Roy Rogers' birthplace
125 Bruce or Laura
127 "Agnus —"
129 Journalist Tarbell
130 Roller-coaster unit
132 "— longa, vita brevis"
133 Brew barrel



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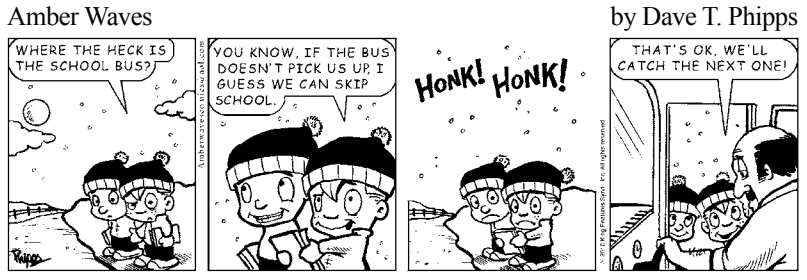
Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. PSYCHOLOGY: What is the excessive fear represented in "hippophobia"?
2. BIBLE: What Bible verse begins with the words: "The Lord is my shepherd ... "?
3. PERSONALITIES: What is Tiger Woods' real first name?
4. MEASUREMENTS: How many square inches are in a square foot?
5. GEOGRAPHY: What was the ancient Roman name for Ireland?
6. HISTORY: The Battle of Agincourt took place in which major war?
7. INVENTIONS: Who is credited with inventing potato chips?
8. LANGUAGE: What kind of animal does the adjective "porcine" refer to?
9. MEDICINE: What causes chilblains?
10. MATH: What is the Arabic equivalent of the Roman numerals LXX?

Answers

1. Fear of horses
2. Psalm 23
3. Eldrick
4. 144
5. Hibernia
6. Hundred Years War
7. George Crum
8. Pigs
9. Exposure to cold causing red, swollen skin
10. 70

Amber Waves — by Dave T. Phipps


WHERE THE HECK IS THE SCHOOL BUS?
YOU KNOW, IF THE BUS DOESN'T PICK US UP, I GUESS WE CAN SKIP SCHOOL.
HONK! HONK!
THAT'S OK, WE'LL CATCH THE NEXT ONE!

The Spats — by Jeff Pickering

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Saturday's Answers

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

WATCH
WATCH
someone

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Find today's solution in this section

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www.saipantribune.com

Saipan Tribune
Sports
28 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2009
There's nothing Super about the Pittsburgh Steelers anymore.
25
Angamwas rules 4-person
Tribune
FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
TUESDAY DECEMBER 15, 2009
Fitial eyes Cepeda's re-appointment to NMC board. PAG
DPH to ask for extension of emergency declaration. PAG
XIX, Issue No. 299
$1.35M earmarks for NMI now up for Obama's
By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
The fate of the $1.35 million in CNMI special projects funding requested by Del-
egate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) now rests with President Obama, after the conference report on the omnibus Fiscal Year 2010 spending bill cleared the U.S. Senate on Sunday.
Sablan's request for $1.35 million to fund seven programs and projects is contained in the Conference Report on Fiscal Year 2010 Consolidated Appropriations Act, a $447-billion spending measure for
Fitial: Ombudsman shouldn't accommodate 'overstayers'
10 DAYS to go before Christmas
OPINION METER
This week's poll:
Should NMC revisit its policy of allowing the

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Favre, Manning, Brees—and Sanchez?

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Brett Favre, Peyton Manning, Drew Brees—and Mark Sanchez? Yep, the rookie from Southern Cal is keeping some heady company. He's gotten a whole lot further than some of the best quarterbacks in NFL history did in their first seasons, too.

The fifth overall pick in last year's draft is part of the NFL's final four, playing for a spot in the Super Bowl just like the game's career passing leader, the league's only four-time MVP, and the sport's most accurate passer.

Sure could be overwhelming.

"This feels right," Sanchez said confidently. "It feels good. It feels the way you dream it would feel just growing up. You get to go play at Indy again for an AFC championship your rookie year, that's unbelievable."

Maybe not. A rookie quarterback has gotten to the AFC title game in three of the last six years. The other two, Pittsburgh's Ben Roethlisberger and Baltimore's Joe Flacco, fell short of the Super Bowl.

Now Sanchez gets his chance.

"I think it's interesting that, you know, a rookie quarterback last year, Joe Flacco, AFC championship game," said New Orleans' Brees, who chuckles and changes the subject when asked about his first pro season. "A rookie quarterback this year, Mark Sanchez, AFC championship. I guess Roethlisberger, when he was a rookie, they went to an AFC championship. So there have been a bunch of rookie quarterbacks here over the last five or six years."

The theory that QBs fresh out of college should sit and watch died a while ago. Maybe it began to disappear with Manning, who never has missed a start since being the top selection in 1998.

Favre barely saw the field with Atlanta in 1991, throwing five passes (two were intercepted) before being traded to Green Bay. Brees came along 10 years later and had only one start for San Diego as a rookie, perhaps because the Chargers had been so burned by using Manning contemporary Ryan Leaf early on they were wary of going with a youngster again.

Now, it's no big deal for the new kid in town to line up behind center from the outset. Or, in the last half-dozen seasons, to play deep into January.

"Every guy wants to be a part of the Super Bowl," said the 40-year-old Favre, who got there in his sixth and seventh season, going 1-1, but has not returned. "As you get older, you appreciate it more. Especially since you've been there, you know how difficult it is to get back. I don't care how good you are. I keep using Pittsburgh as an example, and the Giants a couple of years ago. You never know. Seize the moment."

AP

New York Jets quarterback Mark Sanchez reacts during football practice on Thursday, Jan. 21, 2010, in Florham Park, N.J. The Jets play the Indianapolis Colts in the NFL AFC championship football game on Sunday, Jan. 24 in Indianapolis.

The Jets have done a lot of seizing recently, winning seven of eight, including four in a row, two in the playoffs on the road—about as difficult a challenge as a rookie quarterback could face. Sanchez met the hurdles thanks as much to the Jets' strengths around him as to what he has achieved with his arm and legs.

Sanchez is 24 for 38 for 282 yards in wins at Cincinnati and San Diego. Those would be one-game numbers for Favre, Manning or Brees.

But New York's top-ranked running game and No. 1-rated defense have made Sanchez's inexperience almost a nonfactor. That's nearly enough to make a veteran quarterback jealous.

"Obviously he's got a great team around him: great run game, great defense," Brees said. "He makes plays when he needs to, manages the game well. His offensive coordinator is Brian Schottenheimer, who was my quarterback coach in San Diego. Brian's done a great job helping him prepare and learn the game and he's gotten a little faster dose of the learning curve maybe than most."

Sanchez agrees, recognizing that the conservative approach—if letting a rookie be your quarterback from the get-go can be considered conservative—not only has worked for the team, but has been a boon for him.

"It's worked to this point, and hopefully in the future I'll be able to take more chances and really get a feel for things," he said. "Right now, it's better to be smart than good.

"I do feel more comfortable as the days go on and as I get experience each game. There is no substitute for that experience. I think the biggest thing that has made the difference in these last few games is knowing what it takes to win and also knowing what gets you beat."

Those are lessons Favre, Manning and Brees certainly have learned. Sanchez, of course, has gotten a terrific head start in his pro football education. After all, Manning went 3-13 as a rookie, in the same season the Jets last made it to the AFC championship game.

Even if he does outdo those quarterbacking greats now, Sanchez recognizes just how much more he needs to know.

"I'll get a chance in the offseason to sit back and look at a lot of these games from this year," he said, "and watch (Tom) Brady and Manning and Drew Brees and Favre and take a look at everybody's game and see how it can be applied to mine."

Henin, Safina advance at Australian Open

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Justine Henin staged another memorable comeback Friday to advance in her first Grand Slam out of retirement, beating No. 27 Alisa Kleybanova 3-6, 6-4, 6-2 in the third round of the Australian Open.

Facing two break points at 1-3 in the second set, it seemed as if Henin's dramatic win over Olympic gold medalist and fifth-ranked Elena Dementieva on Wednesday had sapped too much energy. After all, it was only the seventh match for the seven-time Grand Slam winner since she returned from 20 months off the tour.

But Henin managed to hold that game, hitting the lines with her groundstrokes instead of just missing them, and in the next game converted her first breakpoint chance against Kleybanova. As soon Henin found her range, the match was as good as over.

"I kind of survived a little bit today," Henin said. "It's always good to win this kind of match because I came back from nowhere.

"It was so difficult for me after last match. Physically I suffered a little bit in the last two days, but finally I did it. I'm very happy that I have another chance to get better in the next round."

Former No. 1-ranked Andy Roddick was challenged all the way in a 6-7 (4), 6-4, 6-4, 7-6 (3) win over Feliciano Lopez. He next will play 2007 runner-up Fernando Gonzalez of Chile, who was backed by a noisy Chilean contingent in stifling conditions on Showcourt 2 as he beat Kazakhstan's Evgeny Korolev 6-7 (5), 6-3, 1-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Roddick broke Lopez in the third game of the second set and the ninth of the third set, serving out at love both times.

"Right now I'm just relieved to be through," said Roddick, who shanked a shot on his first match point.

Henin, unranked and playing on a wild-card entry, had a momentary lapse in the deciding set when Kleybanova broke her serve, but otherwise dominated the last 10 games.

Only two nights earlier, Henin had to save set points to finish off Dementieva in a tiebreaker, drawing on the experience of losing in similar circumstances to Kim Clijsters after holding match points in the Brisbane International final on Jan. 9.

That was Henin's first tournament since she quit while holding the No. 1 ranking in May 2008. In what is shaping as the Belgian quarter, Henin now must beat Yanina Wickmayer to have a chance at a quarterfinal against Kim Clijsters.

Wickmayer, who is ranked No. 16 but unseeded because she was under a suspension—since overturned—for breaching the World Anti-Doping Agency's "whereabouts rule" when direct entries closed for the Australian Open—advanced 6-1, 6-7 (4), 6-3 over Sara Errani.

Second-seeded Dinara Safina had an easier third-round match, advancing with a 6-1, 6-2 victory over Britain's Elena Baltacha in her first match on Rod Laver Arena since her lopsided loss to Serena Williams in last year's final.

Safina will have a more difficult assignment next round against fellow Russian Maria Kirilenko, who beat Italian Roberta Vinci 7-5, 7-6 (4). Kirilenko had an upset win over 2008 champion Maria Sharapova in the opening round.

"I'm happy to be back here in Rod Laver, I didn't have too many good memories from last year so I turned it around and tried to forget the bad memories," said Safina, focusing on the positives. "I had some unbelievable matches here in Rod Laver: dramas, fighting, running."

Former No. 1-ranked Jelena Jankovic was upset 6-2, 6-3 by No. 31 Alona Bondarenko.

Clijsters, inspired Henin's return to the tour by winning the U.S. Open last September in her third tournament back from retirement, was playing Nadia Petrova in a night match.

Defending champion Rafael Nadal also had a night match against Philipp Kohlschreiber on Rod Laver Arena.

Roger Federer, the king of tennis, met Britain's Prince William on the same court the previous evening. After Federer dispatched Victor Hanescu 6-2, 6-3, 6-2 in 99 minutes Thursday, on-court interviewer Jim Courier invited the top-ranked Swiss star to acknowledge the rare visit to Melbourne by a high-ranking British royal.

"Your Royal Highness, welcome to the world of tennis," Federer said. "Thanks for coming."

Prince William duly blushed and waved. Federer is no stranger to royalty, having collected the Wimbledon trophy six times on London's grass courts among his record 15 Grand Slam titles. But this was his first meeting with William, second in line to the British throne.

Prince William also met women's champion Serena Williams, who defeated Czech Petra Kvitova 6-2, 6-1 to set up a third-round match against Spain's Carla Suarez Navarro. Navarro ousted Venus Williams in the second round last year.

Venus has already improved on that, defeating Sybille Bammer 6-2, 7-5.

Serena planned to speak to Venus about combatting Suarez Navarro.

"I would hate to see it become a habit for her, taking out a sister this time every year," Serena said.

LeBron leads Cavaliers over Kobe and Lakers

CLEVELAND (AP)—The Cavaliers haven't lost their holiday spirit.

Cleveland showed its Christmas Day win over the Los Angeles Lakers was no gift as LeBron James scored 37 points, including 12 straight down the stretch, and the Cavs, playing their first game without injured Mo Williams, beat Kobe Bryant and the NBA champions 93-87 on Thursday night.

J.J. Hickson grabbed a career-high 14 rebounds and Anderson Varejao made three free throws in the final 20 seconds as Cleveland swept the season series between the league's top two teams. That could give the Cavs home-court advantage if they meet the Lakers in June's NBA finals.

A lot can happen between now and then, but the win gave Cleveland confidence it might be able to survive despite losing Williams, their All-Star point guard who will miss at least one month with a shoulder sprain. Williams scored a team-high 28 in Cleveland's Dec. 25 win at Staples Center.

Bryant finished with 31 points but was only 4-of-15 in the second half as the Lakers lost the opener of an eight-game road trip. Pau Gasol scored 13 for Los Angeles.

Bryant surpassed 25,000 career points in the first half, but he was unable to match James in the fourth quarter as both teams turned to their superstars.

With the score tied 80-all, James hit a 3-pointer from the left side, and after a miss by Bryant, the reigning MVP dropped another jumper to put Cleveland ahead by five. James then hit another shot to make it 87-80 with 2:48 left and the Cavs looked to be in control.

But Ron Artest hit a big 3 for the Lakers and Bryant made two free throws and a quick jumper to tie it 87-87 with 1:32 remaining.

James then blasted down the left side for a layup with 40.5 seconds to go, prompting chants of "M-V-P" from the raucous Quicken Loans crowd. After Gasol missed two free throws that would have tied it, the Cavs called a timeout and before play resumed, James was caught by cameras rapping to Eminem's song "Forever" before the ball was inbounded.

James then split a pair of free throws, but Varejao grabbed the rebound on the miss and was fouled by Artest. Varejao, a 66 percent shooter from the line, made both attempts for a 92-87 Cavs lead with 20.7 seconds left. Bryant misfired on an off-balance 3-point attempt and James saved the long rebound, flying into Cleveland's bench to make the save.

As Varejao went to the line again with 4.1 seconds left, James popped his maroon Cavs jersey, making sure everyone knew who came out on top.

James wanted this win badly. While trying to run down a loose ball in the third quarter with the Cavs down two, he leaped over the head of Lakers assistant coach Frank Hamblen and hurdled two rows of chairs before landing in the lap of an unsuspecting female Cavs fan, whom he hugged before returning to the floor.

Moments later, Cleveland took its first lead when Anthony Parker drilled a 3-pointer from the right corner with 4:42 left in the quarter.

James and Bryant both hit jumpers in the final 1:33 of the quarter, which ended with Bryant and Gasol exchanging in a somewhat heated conversation as they returned to the bench. Bryant would stay seated for the first 6:37 of the fourth, and when he returned the Lakers trailed 83-80.

Bryant went just 11 of 25 from the floor, not much of an improvement from his 11 of 33 effort against Cleveland last month.

Delonte West, who started in place of Williams, spent most of the fourth guarding Bryant.

Shaquille O'Neal scored 13 and Hickson, who had just two points in the first meeting with L.A., had 11 and was the difference inside.

While media members, fans and even the league have pushed to portray the Cavaliers and Lakers as a budding rivalry, Bryant isn't buying it—not yet anyway.

"No," he said coldly when asked if the team's were adversaries before the game. "Not at all."

He may now be warming up to the idea.

AP

Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James (23) and Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant glance at each other in the second quarter in an NBA basketball game Thursday, Jan. 21, 2010, in Cleveland.

Nuggets 105, Clippers 85

At Denver, Chauncey Billups scored 13 of his 20 points in the third quarter to break open a tight game, and the Denver Nuggets beat the Los Angeles Clippers for their fifth straight victory.

Carmelo Anthony, selected as a starter for the All-Star game in fan balloting announced earlier Thursday, had 28 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Nuggets, whose winning streak matched a season high.

Kenyon Martin added 13 points and 14 rebounds for Denver, which beat the Clippers for the sixth straight time at Pepsi Center. The Nuggets also won their sixth straight at home, where they are 19-3 - the second-best mark in the NBA.

Craig Smith scored 21 points led the Clippers, who fell to 0-12 on the road when scoring less than 100 points. Chris Kaman was the only other Clipper in double figures with 18 points.

Iverson voted in; Nash, Duncan get All-Star spots

NEW YORK (AP)—Allen Iverson was voted to start in the All-Star game Thursday, while Steve Nash and Tim Duncan made late moves to claim starting spots for the Western Conference.

Nash passed the inactive Tracy McGrady as the second guard, while Duncan disappointed Dallas fans hoping to see Dirk Nowitzki start by rallying past the Mavericks forward.

LeBron James was the leading vote-getter for the Feb. 14 game at Cowboys Stadium, becoming the first player to earn at least 2.5 million votes three times. He will make his sixth All-Star appearance, all as a starter.

"The fans still love and see what I do every night and they appreciate it, and I appreciate them for electing me as an All-Star starter," James said before the Cavaliers hosted the Los Angeles Lakers. "It's still special."

Joining James and Iverson as East starters were Miami guard Dwyane Wade, Orlando center Dwight Howard and Boston forward Kevin Garnett.

Lakers guard Kobe Bryant was picked in the West along with Phoenix center Amare Stoudemire and Denver forward Carmelo Anthony.

Starters were decided by fan balloting at NBA arenas and electronically. The reserves will be chosen by votes by the head coaches in each conference and will be announced next Thursday.

The fans still love Iverson, even though he's played only 19 games during the worst season of his career. He appeared on the West ballot since he began the season in Memphis, but he and the Grizzlies parted ways following only three games.

Iverson's votes counted in the East since he rejoined the Philadelphia 76ers, his longtime team. He is averaging only 14.8 points with the 76ers, but will get a shot at earning a third All-Star game MVP award if he chooses to play.

Bothered by a sore knee, Iverson previously said he would consider his health before deciding whether to play in the All-Star game for the 10th time. He's been an All-Star for 11 straight seasons, but missed the 2007 game because of injury.

"I just want to thank everybody for their support this season and it's an honor that the fans have voted me into the All-Star game as a starter," Iverson said in a statement. "The fans are who make us and make the NBA so popular. This year is even more special because I'll be representing a city and fans that I love and a team that has been such a big part of my life throughout my career."

A McGrady election would have been a bigger embarrassment for the NBA, since he has played sparingly in only six games for the Houston Rockets. The team gave him permission to leave the team and work out on his own while trying to find a trade, yet McGrady still was second among West guards when the most recent update was released on Jan. 7.

That sparked some criticisms of the voting process, but Nash and New Orleans' Chris Paul both moved ahead of McGrady in the final days of voting.

Duncan's late surge gives him a 12th All-Star appearance. Bryant, who claimed his third All-Star game MVP last year when he shared it with Shaquille O'Neal in Phoenix, also will be appearing for the 12th time.

Garnett's selection was his 13th, trailing only O'Neal (15) among active players.

The NBA expects more than 80,000 fans, which would be the largest crowd ever to witness a live basketball game.

It's a return to Dallas for Nash, who spent six seasons with the Mavericks before signing with the Suns in 2004. He and Stoudemire give Phoenix two starters in an All-Star game for only the second time, joining Charles Barkley and Dan Majerle in 1995.

Tiger Woods or not, facility beefs up security

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—Police and hospital security patrolled the streets. Property owners asked for quiet. One business owner told of a photographer offering big money just to stand on his roof and snap pictures on the odd chance Tiger Woods appeared.

Whether or not Woods was in a Hattiesburg sex addiction clinic, neighbors made one thing clear Thursday: They want the paparazzi out.

One day after a celebrity Web site posted what it said were the National Enquirer's first photos of Woods since his Nov. 27 car crash—and they sure looked like golf's No. 1 player—authorities beefed up protection at the Pine Grove Behavorial Health and Addiction Services.

Most obvious was a 100-foot stretch of fence at the rear of the compound, which had been raised by 5 feet to some 13 feet. Hattiesburg police and officers from Forrest General Hospital, which owns the clinic, were cruising in marked and unmarked cars, and they approached reporters who showed up.

The heightened security—even though there has been no confirmation that Woods is even at Pine Grove—at least made sure photographers would not have the same view as the one who snapped pictures of the man who resembled Woods.

The photos, posted by radaronline.com, showed pictures of a man wearing a hooded sweatshirt and shorts and who could be seen through an open gate.

In the midst of all this media scrutiny, at least one local news outlet has taken a step back.

The Hattiesburg American newspaper published an editorial saying it would report on news involving Woods if there was any.

"There is a fine line between covering Woods when he wrecks his car and extending coverage when and if he gets treatment," managing editor Dan Davis wrote. "Where does news end and privacy begin, even if the person involved is one of the most recognizable faces in the world? That's a question that journalists debate constantly."

Davis, who falls on the side of privacy, asked his readers what they thought.

"I think most of my readers think the same way that we do," said Davis, the managing editor for seven years. "This is a privacy issue. One of the things I don't think people know or understand is there are other patients at this facility that are getting caught up in this."

Woods hasn't been seen in public since crashing his SUV into a tree outside his Florida home, setting in motion a stunning downfall that eventually led to him admitting to infidelity and taking an indefinite break from golf.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	27	13	.675	–
Toronto	21	22	.488	7 1/2
New York	17	24	.415	10 1/2
Philadelphia	13	28	.317	14 1/2
New Jersey	3	38	.073	24 1/2

Southeast Division

Atlanta	27	14	.659	–
Orlando	27	15	.643	1/2
Charlotte	21	19	.525	5 1/2
Miami	21	20	.512	6
Washington	14	27	.341	13

Central Division

Cleveland	33	11	.750	–
Chicago	18	22	.450	13
Milwaukee	17	23	.425	14
Detroit	15	26	.366	16 1/2
Indiana	14	28	.333	18

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	28	14	.667	–
San Antonio	25	16	.610	2 1/2
Houston	23	18	.561	4 1/2
Memphis	22	19	.537	5 1/2
New Orleans	22	19	.537	5 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	28	14	.667	–
Portland	26	17	.605	2 1/2
Oklahoma City	24	18	.571	4
Utah	24	18	.571	4
Minnesota	9	34	.209	19 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	32	10	.762	–
Phoenix	25	18	.581	7 1/2
L.A. Clippers	19	23	.452	13
Sacramento	15	26	.366	16 1/2
Golden State	12	28	.300	19

Yesterday's Games

Cleveland 93, L.A. Lakers 87
Denver 105, L.A. Clippers 85

NBA LEADERS

SCORING

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Anthony, DEN	36	368	304	1072	29.8
James, CLE	43	439	319	1271	29.6
Durant, OKC	42	407	350	1225	29.2
Bryant, LAL	41	431	250	1161	28.3
Wade, MIA	41	388	289	1103	26.9
Ellis, GOL	40	419	198	1067	26.7
Nowitzki, DAL	41	377	264	1046	25.5
Bosh, TOR	43	361	314	1042	24.2
Roy, POR	40	328	213	924	23.1
Arenas, WAS	32	253	153	722	22.6
Jamison, WAS	32	263	135	711	22.2
Johnson, ATL	41	340	116	868	21.2
Stoudemire, PHX	43	343	215	901	21.0
Evans, SAC	37	285	183	773	20.9
Randolph, MEM	41	339	169	851	20.8
Gay, MEM	39	303	161	800	20.5
Kaman, LAC	37	316	124	756	20.4
Maggette, GOL	39	252	281	793	20.3
Jackson, CHA	40	288	165	798	20.0
Duncan, SAN	38	304	145	753	19.8

FG PERCENTAGE

	FG	FGA	PCT
Perkins, BOS	197	309	.638
Gasol, MEM	229	378	.606
Howard, ORL	236	390	.605
Hilario, DEN	222	380	.584
Horford, ATL	234	401	.584
Stoudemire, PHX	343	609	.563
Lee, NYK	326	584	.558
Bynum, LAL	246	441	.558
Landry, HOU	240	432	.556
Gasol, LAL	150	273	.549

REBOUNDS

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, ORL	42	158	389	547	13.0
Noah, CHI	40	158	338	496	12.4
Camby, LAC	40	126	353	479	12.0
Randolph, MEM	41	185	285	470	11.5
Wallace, CHA	39	83	356	439	11.3
Lee, NYK	41	97	364	461	11.2
Bosh, TOR	43	128	351	479	11.1
Haywood, WAS	40	174	261	435	10.9
Boozer, UTA	42	82	366	448	10.7
Duncan, SAN	38	116	280	396	10.4

ASSISTS

	G	AST	AVG
Paul, NOR	33	372	11.3
Nash, PHX	43	480	11.2
Rondo, BOS	39	376	9.6
Williams, UTA	38	365	9.6
Kidd, DAL	42	388	9.2
B. Davis, LAC	41	331	8.1
James, CLE	43	334	7.8
Westbrook, OKC	42	315	7.5
Arenas, WAS	32	230	7.2
Duhon, NYK	41	254	6.2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mayweather fears losing–Pacquiao

MANILA, Philippines—Manny Pacquiao rarely criticizes a fellow fighter, but on Wednesday at the Madison Square Garden in New York the Filipino superstar accused unbeaten American Floyd Mayweather Jr. of ducking him for fear of losing.

Though the press conference was primarily held to drum up interest in his March 13 showdown with Ghanaian Joshua Clottey at the Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas, Pacquiao couldn't dodge questions about his botched super fight with Mayweather.

Pacquiao said Mayweather was entirely to blame for the cancellation of the fight which eventually led to Clottey getting a crack at his World Boxing Organization welterweight crown.

"I understand Mayweather is making alibis to cancel the fight," said Pacquiao. "I'm not the one making alibis to cancel the fight. The main thing is he doesn't want to fight."

Unable to hide his irritation over allegations from the Mayweather camp that he uses performance-enhancing drugs, Pacquiao took a potshot at Floyd Jr.

"I think Mayweather is scared to lose, you know? He's scared to lose," said Pacquiao, referring to Mayweather's 40-0 record.

Pacquiao said he'd rather forget Mayweather and focus on Clottey, who is taller by two inches and holds a 3-inch reach advantage.

Clottey is also expected to enter the ring at least 12 pounds heavier than Pacquiao, who fought at 149 lb when he dethroned Puerto Rican Miguel Cotto last November.

As usual, Pacquiao refused to downplay Clottey's chances.

"He's tough. He can take a punch. He can stand and fight toe-to-toe. I don't want to underestimate Clottey," said Pacquiao.

Clottey said his edge in weight means nothing.

"Forget about the weight. Forget about how big I am," said Clottey. "If he's in front of me, then he's too small in front of me; you can't even see him."

The key, according to Clottey, will be his defense and the fact that he knows how to handle a southpaw like Pacquiao.

"One thing I know about me is that I know how to handle a southpaw," said Clottey. "I've never lost to a southpaw in my life." ***(PDI)***

Budweiser and Fiji Water returns as bowling sponsors

The monthly King, Queen, and Prince/Princess of the Lanes tenpin bowling tournaments will start its 2010 season this Sunday and Monday at the Saipan Bowling Center.

MARPAC also will continue its sponsorship of the three tournaments, hence the competitions will once again be called Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes and Fiji Water Prince/Princess of the Lanes.

Sunday's roll-off begins at 3pm, while Monday's competition starts at 6pm. Registration starts 30 minutes prior to game time. Awarding ceremonies immediately follow the end of competition on Monday.

The competition is exclusive for members of the Saipan Bowling Association with participants limited to the first 60 entries for each day.

Saipan Bowling Association treasurer addresses participants of the season-ending Budweiser King, Queen, and Prince/Princess of the Lanes during the awards banquet last Monday at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe. Looking on is SBA president Jerry Tan.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members have the option to bowl on the Sunday or Monday, or on both days, provided that the $15 entry fee is paid. Bowlers who did not bowl on Sunday will be given priority for the Monday shift. Only the higher score will count for the tournament. All participants have to pay the $15 SBA annual membership fee.

The champion is guaranteed $100 in prize money but it could go up to as much $150 depending on the number of participants. Women participants will only have separate prizes if there are at least 10 entries.

Youth bowlers (12 to 18 years old), meanwhile, will duke it out in the Fiji Water Prince and Princess of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament in Day 1 of the monthly competition. Entry fee is $10 for the Fiji Water Prince and Princess of the Lanes.

Youth bowlers must also pay the annual SBA youth membership fee of $10 if they wish to qualify for the annual roll off. The Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes Tournament aims to crown 12 monthly champions through the course of the year.

For early registration and payment, see or contact Gigi or Ross Zapanta at 288-5627 or email zapanta@pticom.com. ***(PR)***

COOL

From Page 28

pion Diamond Ali'i and Saipan Fresh Market started the first round of the playoffs with the latter leading the rained-out match, 67-60.

The match will resume tomorrow at the 5:15 mark in the third period with Diamond in possession. The winner of the Diamond-Saipan Fresh duel will collide against the victor of the IT&E-Noni Saipan tiff for the first finals slot next week.

Diamond took the lead in the first period, 25-20, behind the 11 points of Elmer Esdrelon., Saipan Fresh moved within a deuce, 47-49, at halftime with Gil Gapor, Jun Estolas and Lerio Pagarao combining for 22 of the team's 27 points in the second canto.

Finally, Saipan Fresh grabbed the driver's seat in the opening minutes of the third period after Ryan Sanciangco tallied 10 early points.

Cool Water 108 – Montano 25, Galulu 14, Moreno 12, Pablo 10, Mateo 10, Garcia 8, Espinosa 6, Valencia 6, Delfin 5, Buniag 5, Darag 3, Quemado 2.

GEC Pawnshop 77 – Villegas 21, Ocampo 13, Salazar 10, Macoto 7, Yalung 7, Jalandoni 7, Geli 6, David 4, Villanueva 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-13, 53-26, 81-52, 108-77.

BERNARDO

From Page 28

Dan Barcinas (7), Diamond's J.R. Barrios (3), and Trinity's Roger Herrera (1). Cholos' Won Joo Jung was among the nominees, but failed to get a single vote from UBA fans.

UBA then picked the Top 3 players voted by fans and had its board members and committee heads choosing among Bernardo, Estolas, and Manibusan. Bernardo went on to get four votes, Estolas earned three, and Manibusan notched two.

Coaches from the eight participating teams chosed the eight players who battled for the MVP award. Teams mentors picked three cagers (outside their clubs) based on statistics and their show of sportsmanship in the round-robin regular season.

Statistics-wise, Barcinas had the most impressive mark. The Ol'Aces gunner had most points scored in seven games in the regular season, tallying 157 markers. He also recorded 27 and 41 offensive and defensive rebounds, respectively, and gained 37 assists, 55 steals (first), and seven blocks (first)

Bernardo was fourth among the eight candidates in scoring, netting 134 points. He led the league in rebounds, collaring 44 boards in the offensive end and 39 in the defensive category. He also tallied 14 assists, 12 steals, and two blocks.

Advance hotshot Freddie Pelisamen was originally nominated, but his name was later dropped from the list after his alleged involvement in a robbery and theft case.

UBA was scheduled to award Bernardo his MVP plum last night during the halftime break of Game 1 of the best-of-three title series between Prospects and Ol'Aces.

NEW

From Page 28

in four games, gave up 15 runs and 47 hits, but only had a 1-1 record.

From fourth place, Ned Norita of the league-leading Natibu moved up to third with his 5.97 ERA. Norita pitched 34 innings in six games and had a perfect 6-0 record in those stints on the mound. However, he gave up 29 and allowed 65 hits.

Completing the Top 10 were Palacios (6.26 ERA), San Roque's Manny Tenorio (7.58), SaiPal's Gloyd Martin (7.78), Chura's Mel Sakisat (7.88), Team Familia's Chris Alepuyo (7.94), Hitz's Ruben Olkeriil (8.17), and Santos (8.40).

Santos may have fell behind in the pitching race, but he is in solo first place in the batting list with an average of .842.

In 19 times at bat, Santos, who shared the No. 1 spot with Ur Balls' Oliver Secharmidal the last time, went 12-for-16, scored three doubles, one triple, and three RBIs.

Secharmidal settled for second place with his batting average of .826. In 23 times at bat, he hit 12-for-19, made four doubles, one triple, four homers, and 14 RBIs.

SaiPal's Lawrence Dikito was third with an average of .786, sharing the spot with Island Rebels' Oscar Sablan.

Rounding out the Top 10 were G-Ballers' Ray Terlaje (.769), Natibu's Ken Kalen (.739), Hitz's Jun Kaipat (.739), Island Rebels' Toi Celis (.706), Freedom Air's Shane Yamada (.700), Chura' Sakisat (.696), Man Amigos' Julian Camacho (.696), Natibu's Victor Salas (.692), Calikano's Darren Pua (.692), Blazers' Jess Taitano (.684), and Hitz's Kyle Kaipat (.682)

Batting leaders were based on 10 or more times at bat.

Among these batting leaders, Sakisat has scored the most runs with 17, tying Lucian George. In the doubles category, Ben Falig has earned six. Eric Palacios and J.D. Dikito have posted three triples each. Kyle Kaipat, Sakisat, Yamada, and Peter Sablan are tied in the most RBIs with 19 apiece.

NORTHERN

From Page 28

ishers in the full course with the first placer in the men's and women's divisions receiving $100 each, a one-night stay at Palms Resort with breakfast for two, and medals. Second placers will win a free 90-day membership to Palms Resort and medals, while third finishers will get dinner certificate for two at Palms Resort and medals. Medals will also be given to the Top 3 finishers in the sport and rookie courses.

The top placers in the full course will also have their name printed on the perpetual trophy, which will be on display at Palms Resort year-round, along with the photo of the Top 3 finishers. There will be raffle prizes at the awards ceremony with all riders eligible to win a new Trek Mountain bike from Michelob Ultra.

Registration is $20 and each participant will get a t-shirt, admission to awards ceremony (breakfast), and an all-day pass to the Palms Resort Saipan' pool and fitness facilities.

Northern Passage is being supported by Palms Resort Saipan, IT&E, XTERRA Saipan Championship and Tagaman Triathlon, Saipan Bike Pro, Michelob Ultra, Brabu Pharmacy, Digital Motion, and Konflict Clothing.

To support the race or for more information, contact Brad Ruszala at 287-2723. ***(PR)***

LeBron leads Cavaliers over Kobe and Lakers

The Cavaliers haven't lost their holiday spirit.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Favre, Manning, Brees—and Sanchez?

Brett Favre, Peyton Manning, Drew Brees–and Mark Sanchez? Yep, the rookie from Southern Cal is keeping some heady company.

25

Cool Water clinches last playoffs seat

Cool Water's Roger Valencia goes for a left-handed layup and is fouled by GEC Pawnshop's Alex Ocampo during their do-or-die game in the masters division of the PILCOWA caging on Thursday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Cool Water completed the semifinal cast in the masters division of the 2009 PILCOWA Basketball League after routing GEC Pawnshop in a do-or-die game, 108-77, on Thursday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

Cool Water had the game and the fourth semis berth in the bag as early as in the first half when it more than doubled GEC Pawnshop's total output in 20 minutes of play for a 53-26 halftime advantage.

The victory gave Cool Water the right to face pennant champion Ebisuya in the first round of the playoffs tomorrow. GEC Pawnshop was eliminated.

A make-or-break game between Cool Water and GEC Pawnshop went through after both camps agreed not to file protests against each other, concerning ineligible players, and just dueled for the fourth and last semis spot.

At the start of the crucial battle, Bernard Montano's guns were smoking, as he fired 11 points to give Cool Water an early 25-13 lead.

In the second period, Montano was held to four points, but Cool Water drew eight points apiece from Dindo Pablo and Joseph Galulu and six from Martin Moreno to widen the gap at the break, 53-26.

GEC Pawnshop failed to make headway in the second half, as the closest it could get was cut the deficit to 18 points, 84-66, in the fourth period.

Montano top-scored for Cool Water with 25 points, while four of his teammates also finished in double figures. Galulu chipped in 12, Moreno added 12, and Pablo and Noel Mateo contributed 10 apiece.

Warren Villegas paced GEC with 21 markers.

The winner of the Cool Water-Ebisuya tiff on Sunday will battle the victor of the University of Loyola-Wushin Corp. game next week for the first finals seat. Wushin and Loyola will play in tonight's first match.

In the open division, pennant cham-

See COOL on Page 27

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Youth riders will join the islands' bikers, seen here competing in last month's Hell of Marianas Century Cycle, next month when the Northern Passage hits the road on Feb. 6.

New pitching leader in Chamolinian league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Freedom Air Flyers' Aldebert Lizama has overtaken Tony Magofna in the pitching race in Chamolinian Softball Association's 2009 Budweiser Slow-pitch Softball League.

Lizama posted a 4.06 ERA in five games to take the No. 1 spot in the pitching leaderboard as of Jan. 11. Lizama pitched 31 innings, gave up 18 runs and allowed 57 hits, and recorded a 3-2 mark.

Freedom Air's pitcher is also leading the league in strikeouts with nine, tying Island Rebels' Marvin Palacios and Red Eye's Ping Santos

Magofna, who led the league in pitching during the Dec. 18 cut-off, dropped to second with his 5.83 ERA. Magofna pitched 18 innings

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Bernardo named regular season MVP

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Noni Saipan's Kae Bernardo won the regular season MVP award in the 2009 UBA/Miller Lite Men's Basketball League.

Bernardo notched the coveted award after emerging as the top-vote getters among the league's fans and from the UBA board and committees.

UBA gave out 100 ballots containing the names of the eight players vying for the MVP trophy. Of these ballots, 72 were returned on time with Bernardo earning nods from 22 fans.

Jun Estolas of pennant champion Advance X-Terminators was second in the fans votes with 21, followed by Hoopaholics' Mel Manibusan (10 votes), Prospects' Bonbon Cadagat (8), Ol'Aces'

See BERNARDO on Page 27

Noni Saipan's Kae Bernardo, seen here going for a shot against two Cholos defenders, won the regular season MVP in the UBA caging.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Northern Passage adds youth division race

Due to insistent public demand, the inaugural Northern Passage has added a youth division race for the Feb. 6 event.

Youth division participants (18-and-under) will tackle the rookie course with the Top 3 finishers in the boys and girls division set to get medals. Organizers are also planning to award winners a free entry to XTERRA Sport.

Races in Northern Passage will begin and end at the upper terrace parking lot at the Palms Resort Saipan and will have two other courses, namely full and sports.

Cash prizes will be given to top fin-

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